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4 dead in murder-suicide

► Highway 2 killings occurred just north of Claresholm ► RCMP believe male shooter killed three and injured another person before killing himself



**JEREMY
NOLAÏS**
@METRONEWS.CA

Police baseball players from Prince Edward Island, are dead and a small Alberta community is rattled following an apparent murder-suicide in the early-morning hours Thursday.

RCMP believe an armed male in one vehicle opened fire on another with four passengers shortly before 3:30 a.m. just north of Claresholm on Highway 2.

RCMP found two victims, a male and a female, along with the alleged shooter dead on scene.

A third victim was airlifted to a Calgary hospital in critical condition but later died.

Another female transported by ambulance to hospital underwent surgery and is expected to recover.

According to the Guardian newspaper in Charlottetown, two of the victims are Mitch MacLean, 20, of Cornwall, P.E.I., and Tanner Craswell, also in his early 20s, of Charlottetown. The pair were reportedly attending the Prairie



► Investigators pore over a green Pontiac Sunfire that's believed to have been at the centre of a murder-suicide incident that left four people dead north of Claresholm Thursday.

Baseball Academy in Lethbridge.

"This is very upsetting, not only to the community because this is a very horrific murder to have happen, but also for our members involved," said RCMP Sgt. Patrick Webb. "It's very distressful."

The victims may have been on their way to Calgary to catch a flight back home for Christmas.

Investigators spent much of the day at a heavily-cordoned-off crime scene that included a dark-

Surveillance footage

► RCMP had not released the identities of those involved in Thursday's killings near Claresholm at press time. Spokesperson Patrick Webb said officials were still working to

coloured SUV and green Pontiac Sunfire.

Blue tarps covered some areas

notify next of kin.

► Webb confirmed investigators had obtained surveillance footage from some establishments within Claresholm but could not confirm whether a dispute originated in the town.

inside one the vehicles.

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Feds urging Canadians to leave Syria now

► 'We are declaring a voluntary evacuation,' says John Baird ► More than 5,000 Syrians have been killed in uprising {pages 16-17}

Internet

What are Canadians googling?

► Search engine releases list of bizarre queries from across country {page 24}

International

Toxic-liquor tragedy in India gets worse

► Family members wail as death toll from illicit brew climbs {page 20}

1 news



Facebook's much-hyped Timeline feature, which promises to turn profiles into scrapbooks, has gone live. Scan the code for the story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

Baby Melinda, one of the smallest infants ever born, is alive and well – and defying the odds. Video at metronews.ca/video

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Province scolds social media checks by employers

KATIE TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

Organizations should refrain from flipping through photos and wall posts to learn more about potential employees, according to the provincial privacy commissioner's office.

Guidelines were released Thursday by the Office of Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta, warning organizations they must not use social media to perform background checks.

Diane McLeod-McKay, director of the Personal Information Protection Act, said the issue with collecting information through sites such as Facebook is it's not only one person's information but others' info as well that is being viewed. "Organizations really need to assess their privacy risks," she said.

McLeod-McKay said the provincial office and their federal counterparts have been seeing an increase in the number of complaints. She said there is one incident currently under investigation in Alberta.

"I'm guessing as more people become aware that there is a potential to be screened out of work opportunities because of the use of social media, that people are going to start complaining."

McLeod-McKay said employers should stick to traditional methods of gathering information such as reference checks and interviews.



▶ A vehicle speeds past Claresholm's welcome sign. Members of the community diverted much of their attention Thursday to reports of a murder-suicide incident just one kilometre north of town.

'Quiet' town stunned by highway killings

▶ Claresholm residents hard-pressed to remember comparable tragedy
▶ RCMP caution against believing word-of-mouth, social media rumours

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

Claresholm coffee shops and gas stations were abuzz with chatter Thursday while investigators worked just up the road from the southern Alberta town to determine the sequence of events that left four people dead.

K.C. Dixon, who has lived in the local area for nearly her entire life, awoke to a flurry of Face-

book chatter about the apparent murder-suicide.

"I don't know how to describe it," she said later in the day.

"Everybody knows everyone here.... It's shocking for our community regardless of whether it's someone from here or not."

Roger Reid owns the local Tim Hortons about one kilometre from where the murders were committed.

"Everybody in here's been questioning it," he said. "It will be the topic of

conversation here until we find out what happened.

"It's generally pretty quiet here. I think the last murder I can remember in town was about 20 years ago."

RCMP had been in contact with members of Claresholm's town council, assuring them that the deaths appear to be isolated and members of the community could rest easy.

"It's shocking, that's for sure," said Coun. Dave Hubka. "Really, things like this don't happen here."

Hometown

▶ About 3,700 people call Claresholm home. Because Highway 2 runs through the town, it serves as a stop for people commuting to and from areas like Lethbridge and the north-western United States.

▶ Unconfirmed rumours floated around Thursday that a domestic altercation may have begun at the local 7-Eleven.

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► The city owns the land on which Race City Motorsport Park currently sits ► After more than 25 years, the facility will be closing its doors at the end of the month ► A committee tasked with finding a future home for motorsports was formed in the spring



KATIE TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

An announcement for the future location of motorsports in the city could be coming next year, according to the group responsible for finding a new home.

Over the past year, members of MARCS (Motorsports, Arts, Culture, and Sports) Group have been in discussions with various groups interested in partnering to create a multi-use facility.

MARCS member Rick Coutts said a wide range of ideas are being explored, including possible partnerships with the Calgary Police Service.

"We're at a point where we think we have two or three different conceptual options around co-development that are feasible," said Coutts.

He said three or four parcels of land are in the running.

"We would like to make some kind of an announcement ... within the first six months of next year."

In the interim however, Coutts said an immediate impact will be felt by those who frequented Race City Motorsport Park.

"This is one of the unfortunate aspects of how this has unfolded," he said.

With the loss of Race City from his ward, Ald. Shane Keating said a new location is essential.

"I still believe that there's absolutely a place and we must find a future for them somewhere in the Calgary area."

Ex-F1 driver takes business to U.S.



KATIE TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

As a professional driver, Allen Berg has travelled the world and lived in many cities but he says none of them compare to Calgary.

Berg, a former Formula 1 driver, said he moved to Calgary about six years ago in hopes of planting roots for his family and his business.

He founded the Allen Berg Racing School five years ago and as a direct result of its closure at the end of this month, Berg said he's had to move his business and soon his family to Los Angeles.

"I moved back to Canada six or seven years ago and started my business five years ago with the idea of being able to permanently base my family here and raise my son," said Berg. "It's going to put a lot of strife in my family."

Along with kart racing and formula racing programs, Berg said he is just one of many business owners who offers winter driving courses, which will also be impacted by the closure of the track.

"There's some talk about the drag racing and the arguments of how it's going to keep racers and high-speed drivers off the street," he said. "Another major



► Allen Berg, owner of Allen Berg Racing Schools Inc., looks out at what is left of Race City Motorsport Park Wednesday, as he packs up the rest of his business.

part that's overlooked is there are a number of driver training companies ... that use the Race City Speedway for both motorcycles, cars and trucks and that's leaving

them without a location."

Although he said he's heard whisperings of potential plans for a new site, Berg said he's skeptical.

"I think it most likely will be a number of years before there's a race track in Calgary again," he said. "There's a lot of disappointment from a lot of people."

Leased land needed for city use

For more than 25 years, the City of Calgary has been allowing Race City Motorsport Park to lease land but the time has come for the city to take back what is rightfully theirs, says one official.

In 1981, the city purchased the land east of the Shepard Landfill in anticipation of expanding as the city grew. However, in the interim, the 16-acre site was leased.

It has now become crucial that the city take back the land, said director of waste and recycling services Dave Griffiths.

Griffiths explained the city is obligated by Alberta Environment to capture storm water on the entire site, not just the current landfill, to ensure nothing contaminates the water table.

In addition, the land may be used for landfill expansion as soon as 2015 and a portion of the leased land is required to provide a connection to Stoney Trail.

"We were also quite clear that there would be a time that we need to bring the land that we own back in to our actual use and development," he said.

● KATIE TURNER

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THE PRESSURES OF CHARITABLE GIFT GIVING

IN DEFENCE OF

MIKE MORRISON
METRO CALGARY



The idea of charitable giving at Christmas is nothing new. However, have you ever felt that because we live in Calgary, many in this country are expecting our city to give more than the rest?

Yes, there are a lot of people who are rich here, but for every oil-and-gas executive, there are three Metro columnists ... er, I mean teachers, administrative assistants or small business owners who maybe aren't.

While the idea of giving to charity is one that fills me with happiness and appreciation for my life, the pressure to do so can often be more stressful than Boxing Day shopping.

Simply put, not everyone in my life will understand why I got them a goat in Africa for Christmas. I

wish that wasn't the case, but I think anyone reading this has to admit that an entire family that would accept a charitable Christmas simply doesn't exist.

There's a lot of pressure on Christmas Day — and for people who don't get to see their family every week, it's really the only time to make an impression on the younger ones. Sadly, I'm afraid that a certificate, from their uncle whom they never see, declaring that a whale in the Atlantic Ocean now bears their name will only alienate me further from my nephew and niece.

One of the reasons I don't have kids is because I'm terrified of them acting like little brats on Christmas morning. What if I spent months trying to find them the perfect gift, only to find out what my toddler really wanted was an empty box and a roll of tape?

Or worse, discovering that my tween, who likely annoys me throughout the year, is equally as annoying on Christmas Day. If I were to be responsible for a child, I would force them to serve supper at The Mustard Seed on Christmas Eve. I bet that would make them think twice about rolling their eyes on December 25.

Besides the Mustard

"Serve supper at the Mustard Seed on Christmas Eve.... Buying local goes a surprisingly long way. This weekend there's the Market Collective on Kensington. Start there."

Seed, there are lots of things that you can do to ease your conscience and reduce the odds of the Occupy Calgary protesters setting up camp on your front lawn. Buying local goes a surprisingly long way. This weekend, there's the Market Collective in Kensington. Start there. You can also donate that sweater in your closet — you know, the one that still has the price tag on it — to a number of charities.

This year, I will be charitable. I'll be donating all the money I've saved by not paying for the C-Train to numerous causes. But I'll also be doing the best I can to find the perfect gift for the people I love, because sometimes it's the people that have photos of you with hair and braces that deserve the most material gifts.

Lucky little girl

► Young heart-lung transplant patient doing very well

LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO



LUCY HAINES
CALGARY@METRONews.ca

Four-year-old Cheyanne Mattern of Calgary is one lucky girl: Perfectly healthy last July, then suddenly diagnosed with a rare disease and on a heart-lung machine for 40 days with no donor in site.

Fast-forward to today, where the playful child is thinking about a new home and Christmas gifts, and with no idea that she's made history as Alberta's youngest heart-lung transplant patient, and only the third ever in the province.

The complicated nine-

hour surgery, performed in October at Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton, was made more difficult because the donor organs were significantly larger than Cheyanne's.

Dr. John Mullen, surgical director of the lung-transplant program, said the surgery involved keeping Cheyanne's chest open for five days to accommodate the larger organs.

"We're in uncharted territory, but we're buoyed by this success," he said. "We hope the heart-lung block will last 15 years, maybe longer, before she'd need another transplant."

Cheyanne's dad, Shaun

Hill, adds, "This came out of nowhere so quickly, and we want to thank the donor family for giving Cheyanne a second chance at life."

Pulmonary hypertension, Cheyanne's diagnosis, sees an elevated blood pressure in the lungs' arteries, putting pressure on the heart.

The family will now move to Edmonton for regular monitoring and to make sure there are no issues of rejection or infection.

14 Number of pediatric patients awaiting a heart transplant in Alberta.

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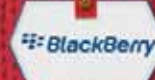


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Calgary's electronic app-titude

- ◆ BT's tech guru, Gadget Guy Mike Yawney, takes a look at some of this city's top homegrown apps
- ◆ Calgary's app-development scene among the most vibrant in the country
- ◆ One free app is now pre-loaded on some smartphones — find out which app!



Five years ago, if you had asked someone what an app was, you would have received a blank stare.

What a difference the years can make.

Now everyone with a smartphone or tablet is intimately familiar with the downloadable applications, thanks to Apple.

Apps have become big business around the globe, including right here in Calgary. In fact, our city is a hotbed for app development. Here are just a few of the most popular apps developed right here in our city.



1

- Poynt — Free
- Developed by: Poynt Corp.
- Devices: iOS, Android, BlackBerry, Windows Phone 7

Connect with your community. Need to find a local business? Search for it in Poynt. Want to go see a movie playing at a local theatre? Poynt will tell you what's playing nearby and it will allow you to view trailers on your mobile device and even read reviews. And that's just scratching the surface. Poynt has become so popular it now comes preloaded on certain brands of smartphones. Take that, Siri!



2

- Clock It — \$4.99
- Developed by: Godfather Enterprises Inc.
- Devices: iOS

I have an ongoing feud with my wife. We both feel our route to the mall is the fastest. Thankfully, Clock It is there to help declare a winner. This Calgary-born app lets you compare multiple traffic routes to see which is the quickest using GPS data from your phone. Get your friends to download the app and you can share route info and locations where police may have set up speed traps. You can also track your friend's locations so you can see where they are in real-time.



3

- Own This World — \$0.99
- Developed by: Big Nerds In Disguise
- Devices: iOS, Windows Phone 7

Think of this app as Foursquare meets the classic board game Risk. This online geo-tagging game has you battling for supremacy of your own city. Claim neighbourhoods one by one to collect resources that can be used to attack fellow players. Need to get an upper hand? Launch propaganda campaigns, poison their food supply or launch a nuke — whatever it takes to crush your opponents.



4

- Tap Forms — \$6.99 for iPhone, \$8.99 for iPad
- Developed by: ClickSpace Technologies
- Devices: iOS

How many loyalty cards do you have in your wallet or purse? Tap Forms takes all of those cards and stores them digitally in your iPhone. Passport numbers, security alarm codes, driver's licences and software serial numbers are just a sample of the information that can be stored in this app. All of your information is protected by government-approved 256-bit AES encryption, a pass-code PIN and an optional auto-lock function.



5

- Cardinal — Free
- Developed by: Cardinal Media Technologies Inc.
- Devices: iOS

Social media have changed the way many of us follow news and keep up with the latest trends. Part of that is sharing our taste in music. Cardinal, developed for the iPhone, makes it easy not only to share what we're listening to but also to send a personalized message to a friend who you think will love the tune just as much as you do. Song information can be posted to Twitter and Facebook with the click of a button.

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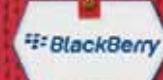
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Secret Santas deliver worldwide

► Reddit Gifts is an international gift exchange



KATIE TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

It's likely the world's largest secret Santa exchange and several Calgarians are sending and receiving gifts to strangers from all corners of the country.

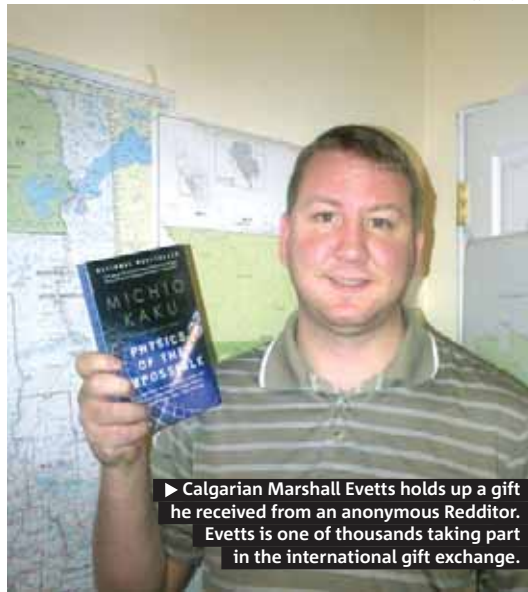
The online community of Reddit, a website with forums on almost every topic, has taken communication from the keyboard to the mail, with thousands of people signing up to send and receive presents from fellow Redditors.

Marshall Evetts, 34, decided to take part in the gift exchange this year, sending a present to Otawa.

"It's always better to give than to receive, and this just seemed like a neat concept — giving a gift to someone you don't know," he said.

Fellow Calgarian Matt O'Connor took part in the exchange last year.

This year, O'Connor received a gift certificate for a helicopter tour of Lake Minnewanka and the Three Sisters Mountain Range. It was hand-deliv-



► Calgarian Marshall Evetts holds up a gift he received from an anonymous Redditor. Evetts is one of thousands taking part in the international gift exchange.

ered by someone in Calgary.

"In the letter it said how I liked photography and this would be a good way to practise my skills."

O'Connor said he would encourage others to take part next year.

"The Reddit community is very unique," he said. "They're genuinely thoughtful."

150

According to redditgifts.com, there are more than 150 participants in the Calgary area. In total, more than \$1.1 million has been spent on gifts and shipping worldwide.

Device shortens wait on background checks

CANDICE WARD
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

For those looking for volunteer work or needing a criminal-record check for employment, the process has now gotten a lot faster.

The RCMP has announced the recent installation of a number of the LiveScan Real Time Identification Devices (RTID) in strategically located RCMP stations around the province.

"Given the important role volunteers play in our communities, all Albertans benefit when their security checks are processed as swiftly as possible," said Deputy Commissioner Dale McGowan, Commanding Officer K Division.

"Installation on these new LiveScan devices means that all Albertans, even those living in smaller communities, are now only a drive away from access to faster service."

This device allows for faster processing times for both Criminal and Vulnerable Sector Checks.

Applicants must still start their checks at their local RCMP but if fingerprints are required, they now have the option to travel to one of the LiveS-



► Const. Meagan Fillion, with the Airdrie RCMP, fingerprints solicitor general Jonathan Denis with one of the 20 new LiveScan Real Time Identification Devices.

\$25

The fee if the Vulnerable Sector Check is used for employment purposes.

LiveScan lowdown

- There's a \$25 fee if Vulnerable Sector Check is used for employment purposes.
- There is no charge if for volunteer purposes.
- Fingerprints from these checks are not retained by the RCMP.
- They can not be used or searched for future purposes.



For more local news, visit metronews.ca/calgary

can locations.

These new installations have also decreased the processing times for the paper-based fingerprint submissions.

"Those being assisted now have the peace of mind knowing the person helping them has been verified by a Vulnerable Sector Check," said Jonathan Dennis, Alberta solicitor general and minister of Public Safety.

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The number of practising doctors in Canada is at an all-time high.

Nearly 70,000 physicians were working last year, a new report shows.

The report — released Thursday by the Canadian Institute for Health Information — suggests the doctor shortage of a few years ago is being resolved.

We may even be heading to a glut if the supply of MDs isn't better managed, the report suggests.

35%

There were 203 physicians for every 100,000 Canadians in 2010, up 35 per cent from the rate in 1980.

Another report by the agency said the average family doctor grossed \$239,000 in 2010. The average specialist's gross income was \$341,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homecoming. Afghan stint ends

► The sign says it all : Capt. Steph Barteaux is hugged by her dad Bruce and mom Bonnie after arriving in Ottawa on Thursday. She was among the last Canadian soldiers to leave Kandahar, signifying the close of Operation ATHENA, Canada's longest combat mission in Afghanistan



SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soldier returns to her family's loving arms

MacKay lived like a king in Europe, group says

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is accusing Defence Minister Peter MacKay of living like a king while he attended conferences in Europe.

The group said Thursday it used access-to-information requests to uncover hotel bills that show MacKay spent \$1,452 a night for a two-night stay at a hotel in Munich

and \$770 a night for three nights in Istanbul.

Gregory Thomas, national director of the group, said MacKay's staff had rooms in the same Munich hotel for \$276 a night.

But the federation's complaints may be misdirected. MacKay was attending an annual security conference, held at



► A new fuss for Peter MacKay: He's accused of high spending while in Europe.

Munich's Hotel Bayerischer Hof in February 2010.

Senior federal officials said MacKay stayed at the hotel at the request of the German government, along with all other heads of delegation. "The organizers wanted and insisted upon that," said a Foreign Affairs source.

Thomas said his group filed an access request

after it was revealed MacKay had an air force helicopter pick him up from a fishing lodge in Newfoundland.

"Going on the basis there's never only one cockroach, we just thought we'd, you know, look at some ... of the minister's other travel expenses."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. marks end of mission in Iraq

► Troops end presence with small service ► Iraqis' future uncertain

There was no Mission Accomplished banner. No victory parade down the centre of this capital scarred and rearranged by nearly nine years of war. No crowds of cheering Iraqis grateful for liberation from Saddam Hussein.

Instead, the U.S. military officially declared an end to its mission in Iraq on Thursday with a businesslike closing ceremony behind blast walls in a fortified compound at Baghdad airport. The flag used by U.S. forces in Iraq was lowered and boxed up in a 45-minute ceremony. No senior Iraqi political figures attended.

With that, and brief words from top American officials who flew in under tight security still necessary because of the ongoing vio-

lence in Iraq, the U.S. ended a war that left 4,500 Americans and more than 100,000 Iraqis dead.

The conflict also left another 32,000 Americans and far more Iraqis wounded, drained more than \$800 billion from America's treasury and soured a majority of Americans on a war many initially supported as a just extension of the fight against terrorism after the 9-11 attacks.

As the last troops withdraw from Iraq, they leave behind a nation free of Saddam's tyranny but fractured by violence and fearful of the future. Bombings and gun battles are still common. And experts worry about the Iraqi security forces' ability to defend against foreign threats. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



► U.S. Command Sgt. Major Joseph R. Allen, left, and U.S. army Gen. Lloyd Austin, commander of U.S. Forces Iraq, wrap up a flag used by the U.S. forces in Iraq during a ceremony in Baghdad on Thursday.

Reaction

- Some Iraqis celebrated the U.S. exit and others said that while grateful for ousting Saddam, the war went on too long.
- "With this withdrawal, the Americans are leaving behind a destroyed country," said Mariam Khazim, a Shiite whose father was killed by a mortar shell.
- "The Americans did not leave modern schools or big factories behind them. Instead, they left thousands of widows and orphans. The Americans did not leave a free people and country behind them; in fact, they left a ruined country and a divided nation."
- "The American ceremony represents the failure of the U.S. occupation of Iraq due to the great resistance of the Iraqi people," said lawmaker Amir al-Kinani.

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Defectors kill 27 Syrian soldiers

► Attacks could lead to new cycle of escalation: Expert

Army defectors killed 27 government forces on Thursday in apparently coordinated attacks that were among the deadliest by rebel troops since the uprising began nine months ago.

The fighting began around daybreak in the southern province of Daraa, where the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad's authoritarian regime began in March.

Syria has seen a sharp escalation in armed clashes recently, raising concerns the country of 22 million is headed toward civil war.

Sanctions by Western powers, Turkey and the Arab League have added to

the growing pressure on al-Assad from within Syria. U.S. State Department official Frederic Hof told Congress on Wednesday that al-Assad's repression may allow him to hang on to power, but only for a short time.

Still, the regime could exploit the escalation of armed attacks by military defectors to escalate the crackdown with full force on pockets of defectors concentrated in Daraa and the northwestern province of Idlib that borders Turkey.

Defectors from the Free Syrian Army, whose leaders are based in exile in neighbouring Turkey, fired a rocket-propelled grenade

at a bus carrying policemen into the town of Busra al-Harir on Thursday, killing 12 officers, an activist based nearby said.

That set off clashes with an accompanying force of soldiers. The defectors killed 13 of them, said the activist, who would only agree to be identified by his first name, Omar, for fear of retribution.

The fighters then killed two more soldiers in an attack on a checkpoint, he said.

Busra al-Harir is home to about 300 army defectors who have been clashing with regime forces daily for nearly a week, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► This amateur footage from TV made available by a group called Ugarit News on Thursday shows what appears to be a Syrian tank on fire in Homs, Syria, as gunfire rings out. The tank then apparently exploded. According to information released with this video, members of the al-Farouq brigade blew up the tank. The brigade is part of the Free Syrian Army and is reportedly made up of Syrian army defectors.

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Canadians urged to get out of Syria

The federal government is again urging Canadians to get out of Syria while they still can.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says it is becoming increasingly difficult for Canadian diplomats and consular officials to do their jobs under restrictions imposed by President Bashar al-Assad.

"We are declaring a voluntary evacuation of all Canadians in Syria," Baird said. "We will provide specialized consular services to those who wish to leave. Our embassy in Damascus is also available to assist Canadians in Syria, as well as their spouses and their dependent children with the needed travel documents, visas, between now and Jan. 14, 2012."

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



"The time to leave Syria is now."

JOHN BAIRD,
FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER

He said sanctions imposed by the Arab League will have significant impact on air transport to and from Syria and he's warning Canadians in the country they will have an increasingly difficult time making travel arrangements as the security situation deteriorates.

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Jacques Chirac found guilty

► Judge finds former president guilty of corruption during days as Mayor of Paris in France

CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



► This Feb. 24, 2007, file photo shows ex-president Jacques Chirac at the Elysee Palace.

As French president, Jacques Chirac was called all sorts of names, not the least for his vociferous opposition to the U.S.-led war in Iraq. Now, he has a moniker that will stick: Convicted criminal.

The avuncular 79-year-old on Thursday became France's first former leader to be convicted since Marshal Philippe Petain, who headed the Nazi collaborationist regime during the Second World War, in 1945. Chirac will not go to prison, but received a two-year suspended sentence for corruption linked to his 18-year term as the mayor of Paris.

In a statement hours af-

ter the decision, Chirac said though he "categorically contest(ed)" the verdict, he would not appeal. Despite the "pain and the profound sadness this

verdict has inflicted," the statement said, "I sadly no longer have the necessary strength to lead before new judges the combat for the truth."

He said that as mayor, "it is up to me and me alone to take responsibility," but stressed that "above all, I affirm with honour: I cannot be blamed for anything." Chirac was found guilty in two related cases involving 19 totally or partially fake jobs created for his benefit at the RPR party, which he led as Paris mayor from 1977 to 1995. He was convicted of embezzling public funds, abuse of trust and illegal conflict of interest. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Ontario doctor leading innovative new cancer study

► Medical trial to treat patients with high-dose radiation



ANGELA MULLINS
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METRO CANADA IN LONDON, ONT.

A doctor from London, Ont. has set out to cure the incurable.

That may be the easiest way to explain an international medical trial being headed by Dr. David Palma, a radiation oncologist with the London Regional Cancer Program.

"What we're trying to do in this study is take patients who have had cancer spread ... and treat them with this very precise high-dose radiation," Palma said

about the \$100,000 trial, funded mostly through the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research.

If the trial plays out, Palma and others hope to prove that cancer can be stopped even if it's spread throughout the body.

Palma's study aims to prove that cancer "probably isn't an all-or-nothing situation." Instead of simply managing a case of cancer that's spread, the new treatment literally "zaps" tiny tumors with intense radioactive therapy.

The idea isn't really new — London-area doctors have been testing it with

Study standards

Some of the criteria for potential participants include cancer patients who:

- Are relatively physically fit.
- Have received treatment for their original cancer but now have tumors in up to five different spots.

patients for the past couple of years, Palma said, noting that while results have been promising, an all-out clinical trial is needed to prove the method can work.

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► A relative of a toxic-liquor victim cries at a hospital near Kolkata on Thursday.

Wails of grief over liquor toll

► Lethal tide of bootleg booze claims 143 victims

As relatives wailed in grief, the death toll from bootleg liquor containing toxic methanol climbed to 143 people, officials in eastern India said Thursday.

Dozens more were sickened after drinking the cheap, illicit and toxic brew.

Police arrested 10 suspected bootleggers.

Emergency medical teams rushed to a village outside Kolkata, and thousands of grieving relatives gathered outside a packed hospital.

Inside, dead bodies lay

"Why don't the police stop this? I cannot understand."

ANWAR HASSAN MULLAH, WHO BROUGHT SIX PEOPLE TO HOSPITAL. THEY ALL DIED.

on the floor covered in quilts, while the ill waited on crowded staircases to be treated.

Groups of men sat in the halls with saline drips running into their arms.

Abdul Gayen cried inconsolably for his son, Safiulla, a labourer who drank some of the liquor

and then complained of lightheadedness.

When Safiulla woke the next morning, he fell and began frothing at the mouth, Gayen said.

He died before his family could get him to the hospital. "Safiulla was the lone bread earner in our family. I don't know what will happen to us now," he said.

Illegal liquor operations flourish in the slums of urban India and among the rural poor who cannot afford the alcohol at state-sanctioned shops.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese district to ban veils and beards?

A city district in heavily Muslim western China is apparently trying to tamp down religious fervour by prohibiting people from

wearing veils, traditional Arab dress or growing long beards.

A notice from the Dunmaili district of Yining said the campaign's objective was "to completely get rid of the abnormal phenomenon in the entire community of minority ethnic women and youth wearing Arabian dress, growing beards and covering their faces in veils."

Yining is in Xinjiang, a region home to the traditionally Muslim Uighur ethnic group. Many Uighurs resent Chinese rule and controls on their religion and culture.

Xinjiang regional spokesperson Hou Hanmin said she was unaware of the campaign. She said people in Xinjiang are free to wear what they like.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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UNITED NATIONS

UN official promotes gay rights

The UN's top human rights official urged countries Thursday to abolish legal discrimination against gays, days after the U.S. government said it would use foreign aid and diplomacy to promote gay equal rights.

The UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, said governments should also outlaw all forms of abuse based on sexual orientation.

Pillay's appeal came in a report released Thursday to the 47-nation UN Human Rights Council, which in June passed the global body's first resolution condemning anti-gay discrimination. That vote was hailed by the U.S. but decried by some Muslim nations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia scrambles to save whales

Russian agencies are trying to save some 100 beluga whales — an endangered species — that are trapped among large

chunks of polar ice floating in the frigid Bering Sea.

Russia's nature protection watchdog says there is a chance that the whales might perish. Authorities say the ice is 10-15 centimetres thick and is preventing the whales from reaching the open sea where they can swim freely.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taking to the television

ALEXEI NIKOLSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin listens to a question during a national call-in TV show in Moscow on Thursday.

► Putin, opposition give no ground amid unprecedented wave of discontent over recent Russian vote

Sharp-tongued and defiant, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin denounced those protesting vote fraud as stooges of the West and insisted that Russia's national election was valid. His opponents were underwhelmed.

In a four-and-a-half-hour marathon call-in show on national TV, Putin aimed to erect a bulwark against a rising wave of discontent. But his disdainful tone appeared likely to only fuel more protests, after a fraud-tainted parliamentary vote Dec. 4 sparked the largest public anger Russia has seen in a generation.

He dismissed opposition claims that vote fraud had given Putin's United Russia party a majority of the

3,500

In a telling display of anger, the number of people who signed up on Facebook to go to the Dec. 24 rally increased from 18,000 to 21,500 just in the hours Putin was speaking.

seats in parliament.

The opposition was not mollified.

"The boorish, disdainful attitude toward the people that Putin demonstrated in today's television show was obvious," said Boris Nemtsov, a prominent opposition leader, in a blog post after the show.

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Reasons for Knox verdict revealed

► Italian court cited weak evidence at original trial as reason American was cleared of murder

The Italian appeals court that cleared Amanda Knox in the slaying of her British roommate gave the reasons for its ruling on Thursday: the evidence that had been used by a lower court to convict the American and her Italian boyfriend of murder just didn't hold up.

Those shortcomings included no murder weapon, faulty DNA, an inaccurate time for the killing, and insufficient proof that Knox and Raffaele Sollecito were even at the location where the crime occurred. So said the Perugia appellate court in its long-awaited reasoning behind its October ruling that reversed the lower court's convictions.



► Amanda Knox.

Meredith Kercher was found slain in her bedroom floor in Perugia, Italy, on Nov. 2, 2007.

Knox and Sollecito, who had begun dating at the time of the murder, were arrested several days later,

then convicted in what prosecutors portrayed as a drug-fuelled sexual assault. They were sentenced to 26 and 25 years, respectively.

On Thursday, the appellate cited among the other failed elements of the prosecutors' case DNA evidence, which was undermined during a re-examination in the appeals trial, and the failure to conclusively identify the murder weapon. The appellate court contradicted the lower court's time of death, saying it happened at around 10:15 p.m., not after 11 p.m. The court said the "building blocks" used to construct the case failed or were missing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tower. Skate



► Ice skaters slide on the ice rink set 57 metres above the ground on the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

FRANCOIS MORI / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris puts tourists on ice

Lodged between two of the Eiffel Tower's immense latticed steel legs, Paris's new ice rink is not big at 200 square metres, but adds a new dimension to the views from Paris' best-known landmark. It will remain open until Jan. 31.



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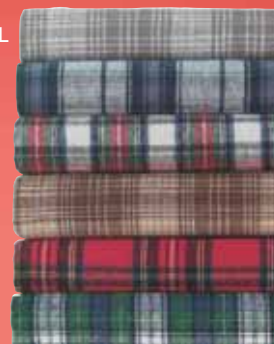
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Canada's odd online searches

► Google releases list of search engine's bizarre, most popular queries from across country

Canadians may be among the most digitally savvy in the world but perhaps a lesson in using Google is in order.

The search giant released its annual lists of the most popular searches on Thursday and the biggest query of the year was www.census2011.gc.ca.

Even Google is at a loss to explain why so many Canadians typed the URL

for the Canadian census site into the search engine, rather than just accessing the address directly.

"It's peculiar," said Google Canada spokesman Aaron Brindle.

"Typing in 'census' would've made more sense to me as well but I guess there were millions and millions of Canadians that must've put in the URL."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Popular searches

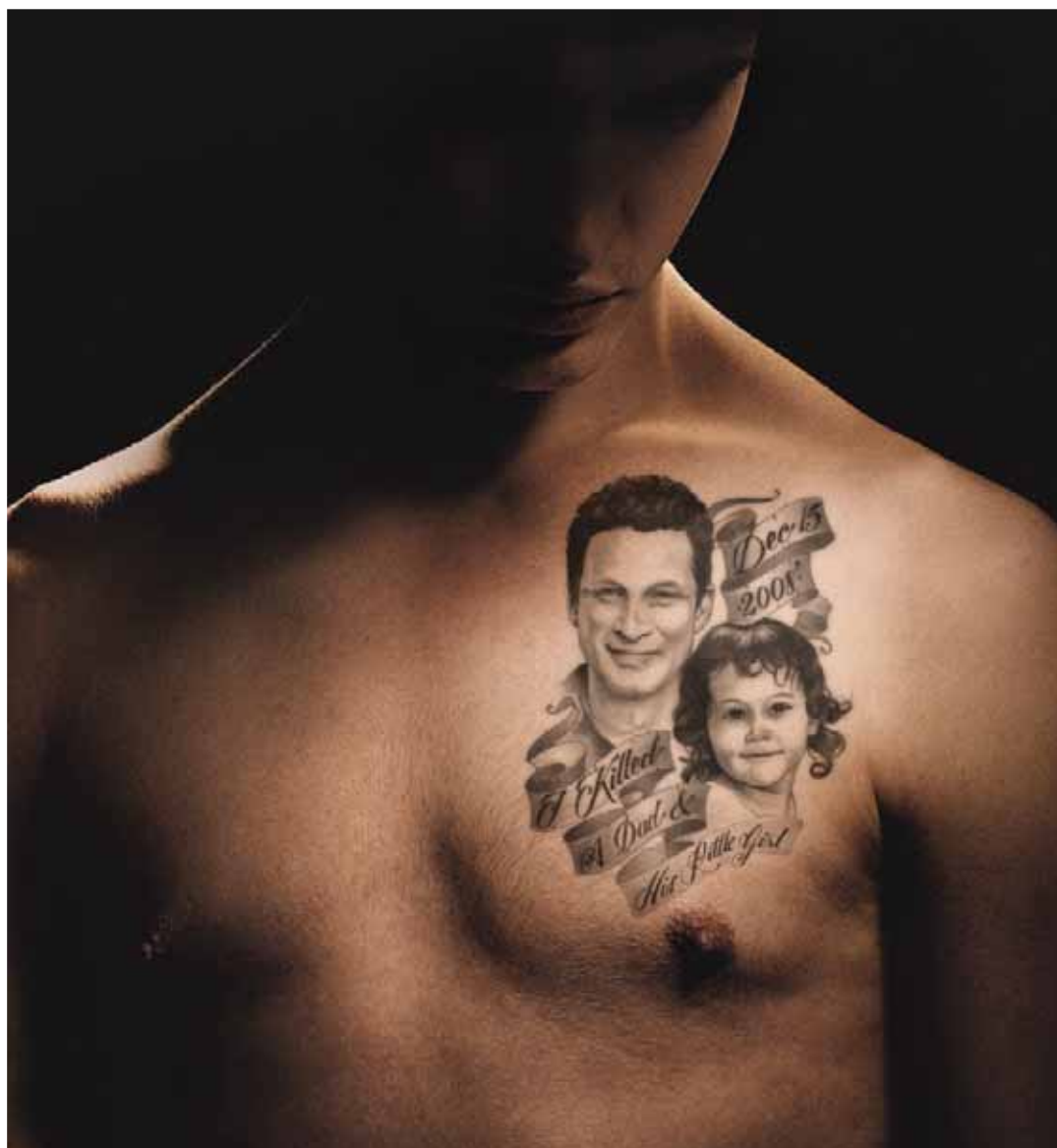
► For several years, Facebook has been the top search of the year on Google — even though it would take just a few extra taps to enter the .com and go directly to the site.

► Other top searches in Canada this year include YouTube, Toronto, you, Hotmail, Kijiji, weather,

game and Yahoo, showing that users often use a Google search as a way to click onto their fave sites.

► Bizarrely, "google" is consistently one of the year's top searches on Google.

► The search for www.census2011.gc.ca was the "fastest-rising" query of the year. Second was Skyrim, shorthand for a popular video game.



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Christmas. Ad



► A pedestrian passes a poster unveiled as part of a church advertising campaign, outside St. Anne's Church in Manchester City Centre, Manchester, England, on Thursday.

JON SUPER/JON SUPER

Nativity scene with style

With only days to go until Christmas, the church group unveiled a poster Thursday to remind people of the religious aspect of the holiday. A beautifully groomed Mary with a fashionably dressed Joseph gaze adoringly at a baby's crib while wise men carry a Faberge egg, a crystal bottle of perfume and a decorated skull. The poster was deliberately designed to look like a fashion photograph.

2011's word of the year is ...

Top words

► Merriam-Webster has been picking its top choice since 2003. Past winners include: austerity (2010), admonish (2009) and bailout (2008).

When the time came for Merriam-Webster to pick its top word of 2011, its editors decided they needed to be pragmatic.

So they chose ... pragmatic.

The word, an adjective that means practical and logical, was looked up so often on Merriam-Webster's online dictionary that the

publisher says "pragmatic" was the pragmatic choice for 2011. "Pragmatic" may have sparked users' interest because they'd heard it in conversations, and because it captures the current American mood of encouraging practicality over frivolity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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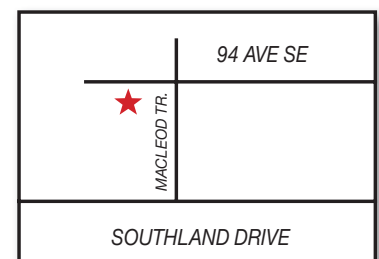
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China. Choco-chic



► A model shows off clothing partially made of chocolate during a chocolate fashion show in Shanghai on Thursday.

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fashioned from chocolate

More than money at stake in developing Arctic: Report

► Melting of permafrost due to climate change affecting infrastructure

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE



► A speed-limit sign along the road near the Meadowbank gold mine in Nunavut.

Governments and businesses are being advised they must look beyond immediate economic benefits when it comes to paying for roads, ports and rail lines in the Arctic.

The Conference Board of Canada said in a report released Thursday that even though such projects are more expensive to build and maintain than they would be in the south, they're still worth it.

"If you've got an all-weather road into a community, it's a lot easier and cheaper to get goods and people into and out of those communities than if you're dependent on a winter road that's only open for an increasingly short number of weeks," said David Stewart-Patterson, the think-tank's vice-president.

"But it's not just about

access to economic opportunities. It's access to essential public services."

Canada's North is poorly served by transportation infrastructure. Aside from private roads built for specific resource projects, Nunavut has only 21 kilo-

metres of all-weather road in the entire territory. It has only one harbour, despite the fact almost all its communities are along shorelines.

The northern reaches of the provinces face similar limitations. The report says

25,000 people in northern Manitoba depend entirely on winter roads, the season for which is shrinking yearly.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

TSX



- 38.63
(11,504.42)

Dollar



+ \$0.36¢
(96.55¢ US)

Oil



- \$1.08 US
(\$93.87 US)

Natural gas

\$3.127 US
(- 0.9¢ US)

Gold

\$1,577.20 US
(- 9.70 US)

PRICES AS OF 4 P.M. THURSDAY

Canada Post No. 8 in G20

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS



A British consulting firm says Canada Post has made it into the Top 10 postal services in the G20.

Oxford Strategic Consulting says Canada Post takes the No. 8 spot in its ranking of postal services in the G20 countries.

The ranking is based on postal service providers' performance over the three years from 2008-10 looking at access to services, efficiency and performance.

The U.S. Postal Service

took the No. 1 spot, followed by Japan Post, Australia Post and Korea Post.

Oxford says the USPS topped the ranking due to its high operating efficiency over the three years — delivering eight times more letters per full-time delivery employee than Canada Post. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Board sets rules for Arctic drilling

Canada's energy regulator will continue to require that oil and gas companies wanting to operate in sensitive Arctic waters be able to drill immediate relief wells to help contain blowouts.

The recommendation was released Thursday by the National Energy Board in its review of the rules for northern offshore drilling. The review was undertaken after the massive 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

"The applicant must demonstrate, in its contingency plan, the capacity to

drill a relief well to kill an out-of-control well during the same drilling season," the board's guidelines say about drilling applications.

But the board suggests it might be willing to consider alternatives on a case-by-case basis.

That flexibility was welcomed by industry. "It allows for innovation. It allows for companies to put other things forward," said Travis Davies of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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► Pensioners demonstrate against austerity measures in central Athens on Thursday.

Greek workers stage walkout

► IMF urges Greece to fire excess public servants and impose further cuts to make economy more competitive

Greek civil servants walked off the job for three hours on Thursday to protest austerity measures that include pension and salary cuts and the suspension of tens of thousands of workers on partial pay.

The work stoppage was to leave hospitals with emergency staff and shut down other public services from noon to 3 p.m. About 1,000 pensioners marched through central Athens to protest outside

Parliament.

Prime Minister Lucas Papademos, meanwhile, was meeting with Greece's debt inspectors from the International Monetary Fund, European Central Bank and Eurozone Commission.

The country is negotiating the terms of a second massive rescue package, worth \$169 billion US, with the eurozone and private bondholders.

On Wednesday, the IMF's top official in

Greece urged the country to fire excess public servants and impose further cuts on workers' pay rights to reduce the size of the public sector and make the economy more competitive.

Poul Thomsen warned the government it would not be able to reduce its high budget deficits unless it focused on spending cuts, arguing that the country's taxpayers had reached the limit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TECH TROUBLES

RIM profits plummet as brutal year continues

The Icarus-like return to reality for Research In Motion, once the high-flying darling of Canada's high-tech sector, showed no signs of slowing Thursday as the troubled smartphone maker reported another quarter of dra-

matically lower profits.

The company's net profits plunged to \$265 million US, a far cry from \$911 million for the same period last year.

The company has had a difficult 2011, cutting 2,000 jobs, watching as its tablet landed on the market with a thud and suffering a worldwide BlackBerry outage that tarnished its reputation.

"We ask for your patience and confidence," co-CEO Mike Lazaridis said yesterday following the release of the results.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Monti faces austerity resistance

Italian Premier Mario Monti is facing serious resistance from three tenacious forces: global financial markets, Italian politicians and Italian labour unions.

Monti has already issued his austerity and growth measures as an emergency decree, but Parliament must approve it in a vote.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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China.....1.9¢/min	Lebanon.....7.9¢/min	Trinidad.....4.9¢/min
Colombia.....3.9¢/min	Mexico.....1.9¢/min	U.A.E.....14.9¢/min
Cuba.....89.9¢/min	Pakistan.....5.9¢/min	Ukraine.....7.9¢/min
El Salvador.....9.9¢/min	Philippines.....11.9¢/min	U.K.....2.9¢/min
Germany.....1.9¢/min	Poland.....1.9¢/min	Vietnam.....4.9¢/min
	Romania.....1.9¢/min	Serbia.....7.9¢/min

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A PIECE OF (EXPLETIVE) IN THEIR STOCKING

THE METRO LIST

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO



We're makin' a list, checkin' it twice. So you're gonna find out who's naughty and nice ... which is especially important this time of year.

1 Justin Trudeau has been very naughty. The son of former Prime Potty Mouth Pierre Trudeau (remember "fuddle duddle"?), demonstrates that the rotten apple doesn't fall very far from the tree as he loses it in question period and refers to Environment Minister Peter Kent as the four-letter version of a piece of excrement. At least he's efficient.

2 Canadians confirm they are the world's most boring people by making the census and Canada Post their two fastest-rising Google searches. While the rest of the world made 14-year-old pop curiosity Rebecca Black their fastest-rising search for Friday, dubbed by critics as "the worst song ever," we're looking into overnight delivery and number of adults per household. We're soooo nice. Sigh.

3 The Protester is Time Magazine's Person of the Year. OK, you've occupied our media and our minds for the requisite 15 minutes. Time to lay down your pitchforks and your torches and go back to your farms and families. You've been naughty for a noble cause.

4 Albert Pujols has agreed to play baseball for the Los Angeles Angels for the next 10 years. In return the team has agreed to pay him \$50,000 every time he steps up to the plate, even though his batting average has lost more than 50 points since the 2008 season. Nice! Albert Pujols is definitely a member of the one per cent. How come nobody tries to Occupy the Dugout?

5 The Artist, the silent movie, leads the Golden Globe nominations with six. Silence is, er, golden. Meanwhile, last weekend was the worst in modern box-office history. Is there a pattern here? Fortunately the notoriously naughty Robert Downey Jr. opens this week as Sherlock Holmes in A Game of Shadows. As the main competition is Alvin and the Chipmunks, Sherlock's duel with Professor Moriarty, the Nabob of Naughty, expects to gross more than \$50 million.

6 The Higgs boson has made it a pretty nice week for science nerds as the VBEM (Very Big Expensive Machine) at CERN in Switzerland has identified tantalizing hints that the Holy Grail of physics, a.k.a. the God particle, the elemental building block of Everything, exists. They seek it here; they seek it there; that damned elusive particle. Stay tuned for the exciting conclusion early in 2012.

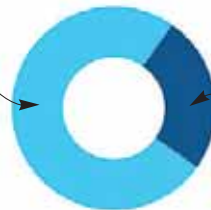
7 Justin Bieber is the most searched image on Google in 2011. Overexposed. And not in a nice way.



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and take the quick poll

Bodog has set the over-under for games played by Sidney Crosby at 38.5. What would you take?

75%
THE UNDER
FOR SURE.
THAT'S EASY
MONEY



25%
I'LL TAKE THE
OVER. HE'S
JUST BEING
CAREFUL NOW

Local tweets



@JayBoosh:
Yet again vir-
gin radio and

amp radio are playing the
same song. Figure you life
out. #radiosucks #yyc

@dananicole00: Owls are
starting to migrate to
#yyc?! Amazing!!

@priscillaetang: How
creepy is it that I
determine if I am on the
McKnight train by the peo-
ple on the train. #yyctran-
sit #yyc

@xSARAHSODAx: HEY
#YYC! Please salt or plow,

no-baby-daddy-alley!! Its
treacherous!!

@acosborne: Is against
tweeting locations of
checkstops in #yyc

@geoilergist: Just saw a
car try and cross 3 lanes
and get t-boned I love driv-
ers in #yyc

@jtwittnebel: yyc yep at
check stop at 4 pm. I guess
they can get lots of .05 ppl

@ireneerutema: Back from
#boxwood in #yyc 4 a nice
lunch with a charming
friend! Life is beyond good
in Cowtown!

Daily Zoom

Tiny baby beats enormous odds



Second-smallest baby in the U.S.

Melinda Guido is pictured shortly after her birth in late August with the hand of Dr. Rangasamy Ramanathan as a comparison. Melinda was born at 24 weeks weighing 9.5 ounces.

She's believed to be the second smallest baby to survive in the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girl power

- Most tiny babies who survive tend to be female because female fetuses mature faster than males.
- The smallest surviving baby, born weighing 9.2 ounces, is now a healthy seven-year-old. Another who weighed 9.9 ounces at birth is an honours college student.

"The first few weeks, it was touch and go. None of us thought the baby was going to make it."

DR. RANGASAMY RAMANATHAN

Two more weeks

Dr. Rangasamy Ramanathan predicted at least another two-week stay at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center for the premature baby, dashing her parents' hopes of taking her home by Christmas. Melinda can breathe by herself, but still uses an oxygen tube as a precaution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Synopsis

The puzzle at the heart of Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows begins with the death of the Crown Prince of Austria. Written off as a suicide, Holmes (Robert Downey Jr) deduces there is more to the story. Enter Watson (Jude Law), who should be on his honeymoon, a beautiful fortune-teller (Noomi Rapace, the original girl with the dragon tattoo), the evil Moriarty and more intrigue than you can shake a deer-stalker hat at. This week the game's afoot with Reel Guy Ned Ehrbar!

Ratings:
Richard: ●●●½
Ned: ●●●●

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN

SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



► Game of Shadows is more a vehicle for Robert Downey Jr.'s witty banter and Guy Ritchie's love for action sequences than it is a great mystery.

Elementary plot

► Game of Shadows is light on the storyline, but heavy on action and witty banter

Richard: Ned, there is no question that RDJ and Law bring a certain joie de vivre to the usually staid portrayal of the great detective and his loyal sidekick. They look like they're having a ball, probably more fun than the audience, in fact. As enjoyable as it is to watch these two riff off one another it soon becomes clear the whole movie is nothing more than a vehicle for their banter.

Ned: The banter is delightful, there's no denying that. But when they're not sniping at each other, you start to notice the plot doesn't really measure up to a detective of Holmes' stature

— or offer any original ideas. Basically, if you don't want the movie spoiled for you, wipe the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen from your memory, as Moriarty's scheme is exactly the same in both movies. I'm assuming the filmmakers are banking on no one remembering that movie, though — which is a safe bet — but still.

RC: Agreed, if you can figure out the story. Confused and confusing, the plot zips along at such a rapid pace you'll barely know it doesn't make much sense because director Guy Ritchie fills the screen with wildly edited scenes anchored by

Downey's flamboyant performance. It looks cool and will make you laugh occasionally, but the quips and extravagantly edited sequences are only fun in the moment. They don't add up to much of a movie.

NE: Some of those cool-looking scenes can grate, as well. A little bit of the Sherlock slow-mo fight analysis goes a long way, but since it got such a good reaction in the first film, Ritchie lays on the bullet time a little thick here. One element that did work for me though was Jared Harris' Moriarty, a dangerously brilliant villain with a plausible cover story as a mild-

mannered professor. It's a shame he's not in the movie more, though.

RC: Harris has one seminal psycho moment — is there anything crazier than belting out an aria while torturing your nemesis? — but I didn't think Noomi Rapace, while eye catching as Sim, was given enough to do to be truly memorable.

NE: True, she doesn't get much to do besides react to the dynamic duo's chicanery and drop helpful reminders about the plot. And the less said about RJD on a pony, the better. Still, audiences could do a lot worse.

Scene in brief



Howard Stern will be joining the judges' panel on America's Got Talent, and the NBC summer talent show will uproot itself from Los Angeles to accommodate the New York-based shock jock, the network said Thursday. NBC confirmed weeks-old rumours of Stern's selection to join fellow Talent judges Howie Mandel and Sharon Osbourne.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Candy Spelling packs up, leaves Spelling Manor — the house that TV built — in HGTV special

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Jake Hamilton, FOX-TV

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33.  Go **VIRAL** by organizing a **SANTA FLASHMOB**.
34. **NUTCRACKERS** double as **bottle openers**. 
35. Skip the **turkey skin**. A calorie **SAVED** is a calorie **EARNED**.
36. Give people a **LAUGH**, use the comics section as **WRAPPING PAPER**.
37. Don't build a gingerbread house. Build a gingerbread **SADDLEDOME**.
38. Go to a co-worker's desk and gift-wrap everything in sight. **Everything**.
39. **INSTEAD OF MILK and COOKIES**, why not leave a Molson Canadian 67 out for the big guy? 

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Tintin's character rings true for Bell

► Actor Jamie Bell talks about his childhood fascination with Hergé's detective ► Tintin a 'beacon of excellence'



RICHARD CROUSE

SCENE@METRONWS.CA

Legend has it that when Steven Spielberg offered Jamie Bell the lead role in *The Adventures of Tintin*, the actor looked the Hollywood legend in the eye and said, "I'll have to think about it."

"What is true is that he said, 'If you were to be Tintin it would be about five years of your life. Are you comfortable with that?' To me, as a 16-year-old, five years was a really long time (he's 24 now). So I didn't want to be the naïve actor and say, 'OK, I'm fine with that. I wanted to really consider it. I don't even think I said I'd think about it, I just

didn't give a definitive answer.

"For me it was more important to be sitting down at a table with him. Just sharing a Hollywood meeting with him was awesome. To me, as a child, he was otherworldly. He was a Houdini character who made dinosaurs live and boys fly on bicycles."

Bell, who first won hearts as the lead in coming-of-age-dance movie *Billy Elliot*, says getting to make the movie with Spielberg has "remarkable synergy" because "Tintin was one of his favourite childhood things."

Originally, he simply enjoyed the characters, he says, but there was some-

thing special that set the stories about the young detective apart from other kid's comics.

"It was different from all the other cartoons. I felt respected, as a kid, by Tintin. That allowed me to gravitate toward him and go on his adventures.

"I was a very inquisitive kid," he says. "I used to watch a lot of political satire comedy shows. I'm sure I had no idea what they were talking about, but they were funny to me. Grown-ups making fun of other grown-ups was hilarious.

"So when I read Tintin and he was travelling around the world solving political corruption, I just



► The Adventures of Tintin channels the spirit of the beloved books.

knew what was going on."

The film grabs the spirit of the beloved books, bringing some of the intensity — and mild violence — of the original Hergé books to the screen.

"If Tintin wasn't the beacon of excellence that he is," says Bell, "if he wasn't the guy with the correct moral compass, if he wasn't so innocently earnest all the time, I think that could

be an issue.

"But because the character at the front is such a great, natural and instinctual heroic character, I think you kind of get away with it."

RICHARD ROEPER

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Rape. Murder. Freezing cold weather. Happy holidays from the team behind *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, the latest adaptation of Stieg Larsson's international bestseller.

The book — about a journalist (Daniel Craig) who investigates a dysfunctional family's murder mystery, with help from anti-social hacker Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara) — has already spawned a successful Swedish film trilogy.

For Craig and Mara, it was a chance to work closely with director David Fincher. Mara appeared in his *The Social Network*. *Tattoo* is generating similar Oscar buzz, but it's not without its share of controversy and critics, thanks to some startlingly frank and sexual subject matter.

The set was lighthearted, though. As were the two actors at our chat....

DANIEL CRAIG

Now that you've played a journalist, do you have any more sympathy for journalists?

I've always loved journalists. I don't know where the story's come from, that I have a problem with journalists. I have a problem with intrusion — that's something different completely. But some of my heroes are journalists.

The opening credits made me think what a David Fincher Bond film might look like.

I could see him applying it to anything, really. I'd love to work with him again, and I'd do anything for him. David has a very hap-



DANIEL CRAIG AND ROONEY MARA

► In exclusive one-on-ones, Metro interviewed the stars of this season's most anticipated film, asking what they think of one another, the book's dark tone and Bond, James Bond.

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO Q+A

py set most of the time — as much as a set can ever be happy when you're filming very dramatic scenes.

There was some financial

trouble with the Bond franchise over the last couple of years, but that made it possible for you to do this film.

That's true, it did, yes. I always knew it was going to

work itself out. But I'd also kind of said to myself, if it doesn't work out somebody else is going to do it. That's the way it is. Bond will be fine, he'll keep going.

Tattoo has Oscar buzz, but do you worry that the roughness might scare off some voters?

Oh look, I can't think about all that. It's such a crazy pe-

riod. If it offends a few people, good. I hope it does.

ROONEY MARA

Lisbeth is an iconic character, with piercings and a punk look. How collaborative was David Fincher with you regarding the look?

There were a lot of discussions about the character — about the way she looks, about the way she walks, about the way she talks, about her eye contact, about her mannerisms. But at the end of the day, you know, obviously I'm the person playing the character so he did give me a lot of freedom in that. There was always a lot of talking and a lot of collaboration.

Why do you think it is that when a female character is presented as strong and is in any way sexualized, some people dismiss it as exploitative or misogynistic?

I don't know, because people are stupid? (laughs) I don't know, that's true. I don't know why.

Because I think it scares people. Things that people aren't used to seeing or experiencing scares them. The thing that's so interesting about this character is that she has these two different sides. She's perfectly capable of taking care of herself, but at the same time she's vulnerable and put in these horrible positions.

She's wise beyond her years and incredibly bright, but at the same time she's emotionally stunted at 12 years old and is naive and doesn't have a lot of experience with other people. So I think that's what makes her so interesting, that she has these opposing sides. She's been sexually abused, but at the same time she's very sexual.

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CANYON MEADOWSBay 110 13226 Macleod Trail,
403-670-5444

50/50 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-9:50
Dolphin Tale (G) Fri-Thu 1:4-15:7:05
Dream House (14A) Fri-Thu 1:35-9:40
Drive (18A) Fri-Thu 9:50
Footloose (PG) Fri-Thu 4-7
The Help (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:15:7:45
In Time (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:05:7:20-9:45
Johnny English Reborn (PG) Fri-Thu 3:45:7:25
Killer Elite (14A) Fri-Thu 9:40
Moneyball (PG) Fri-Thu 12:5-4:15:10-18
Real Steel (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55:6:45-9:30
The Rum Diary (14A) Fri-Thu 4:05-6:55
The Smurfs (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:7:10
The Three Musketeers (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:55:7:15-9:45
The Way (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-9:35

CROWFOOT CROSSING

91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:40-3:35:6:40-9:25
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:30-3:15:3:45-5:30:7:45-10 No Passes Tue 1:30-3:15:3:45:7:45-10 No Passes Wed 12:05-2:20-3:15-4:40-6:55-9:15 No Passes Thu 12:05-4:20-5:30-7:15-9:40-11:15 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Thu 1:20
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Thu 3:55-6:30-9:10
The Descendants (14A) Fri-Mon 1:05-3:50:7:05-9:50 Tue 1:05-3:50
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Tue 7:10-30 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:3-30:7-10:30
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri-Mon 1:40-4:10-6:40-9:25 Tue 1:40-4:10
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:05:7:10-10:10 Wed-Thu 1:10-3:55:6:40-9:35
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) No Passes Tue 7:05:7:25:10:05-10:25 No Passes Wed 12:30-4:3-5:05:6:50-7:20-9:50-10:20
The Muppets (G) Fri-Tue 1:50-4:30:7:20-9:55 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:15:7:15-10
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Tue 1:15-4-7:9:45 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:10-9:55
The Nutcracker - Bolshoi Ballet Encore (STC) Sun 1 Mon 6:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-6:45:7:15-9:40-10:10 No Passes Mon 1:10-4:10-6:45:7:15-9:40-10:10 No Passes Tue 1:10-4:10-6:45:7:15-9:40-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
The Sitter (14A) Fri-Tue 2:40-7:40-10:15
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:15:7:25-10:05 Sun 1:45-4:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Tue 1:55-4:25:6:50-9:30 Wed-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:50-9:30

EAU CLAIRE MARKET

200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Tue-Thu 8
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri 6:45-9:50 Sat 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:50 Sun 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:45
J. Edgar (PG) Fri 6:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:30-9:40 Mon 9:40
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) No Passes Tue-Thu 7-10
My Week With Marilyn (14A) Fri 7:15-10:10 Sat 12:50-3:50:7:15-10:10 Sun 12:50-3:50:7:10 Mon 7:40
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri 7:10 Sat 12:40-3:40-7:10 Sun 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:50
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri 7:30-10:30 No Passes Sat 1:4-7:30-10:30 No Passes Sun 1:4-7:10-10:05 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-10:05
Young Adult (14A) Fri 7:45-10:20 Sat 1:10-4:10-7:45-10:20 Sun 1:10-4:10-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:55

EMPIRE STUDIO 16**COUNTRY HILLS**

388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed-Thu 12:25
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:7:05-10
The Descendants (14A) Fri-Mon 1:05-3:50:7:05-9:50 Tue 1:05-3:50
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:20-2:40-5:7:25-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-2:40-5:7:25-9:45
Arthur Christmas (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12:25
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 3:6:45-9:15
The Descendants (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:40-4:25-6:55-9:55
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Tue 8 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-4:05-8-8
Happy Feet Two (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Tue 12
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Tue 2:50-6:15-9
Hugo (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12:05
Hugo 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Tue 3:10-7:05-10 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed-Thu 2:50-6:15-9:10
Immortals (18A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Mon 1:30-4:10-7:30 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Tue 1:30-4:10
Ladies vs. Ricky Bahl (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-5:15-9:20
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (14A) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Tue 1-4-7:10 Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 7:10
The Muppets (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:50-9:30
New Year's Eve (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45:7:35-10:20
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:35-1:15:3:35-4:15-6:40-7:10-9:35-10:10
The Sitter (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:05-3:20-7:45-9:50 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:50-9:30
Tower Heist (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Mon 10:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:35-4:20-7:30-10:05
Young Adult (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-2:45:7:15-9:40

EMPIRE STUDIO 10**MACLEOD TRAIL**

100-16061 Macleod Trail, 403-974-0470

The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:15
The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 4-7-9:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:30 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:40-9:30
Arthur Christmas (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:20 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 3:20-6:20-9:20 Wed-Thu 12:15-3:50-8
Happy Feet Two (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12
Hugo (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:45
Hugo 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 3:50-7:20-10:15 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:20-6:30-10
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:4-20-7:30-10:30
The Muppets (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:45-4-7-9:40 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:45-3:30-7:10-9:50
New Year's Eve (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:15-4:30-7:40-10:40
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:30-3:10-3:40-6:40-7:10-9:50-10:20 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Tue 12-12:30-3:10-3:40-7:10-10:20 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10:20

The Sitter (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:45-4:40-7:50-10:10 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:45-10:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:10-3:30-6:30-10

GLOBE CINEMA

617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

The Descendants (14A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:10-7:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
An Insignificant Harvey (14A) Sat 5
The Little Traitor (G) Fri 7:10-9:10 Sat-Sun 1-3-7:10-9:10

MOVIEDOME

1039 999 36 St. N.E., 403-248-2000

The Dirty Picture (14A) Fri-Thu 6:30-9
Dream House (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-6:50-10
Drive (18A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55:7:10-9:55
Footloose (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-7-9:40
Johnny English Reborn (PG) Fri-Thu 7:05-9:50
Ladies vs. Ricky Bahl (PG) Fri-Thu 2-9
Real Steel (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:25-6:45-9:30
The Rum Diary (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:45-9:35
The Smurfs (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:40
Spy Kids: All the Time in the World in 4D (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:50
The Three Musketeers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:55-9:45

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK

6455 Macleod Trail, 403-212-8994

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:25-2:05:4:45:7:25-10:10
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) No Passes Fri 11:10-12:10-1:40-2:40-4:05-5:10-6:15-7:35-8:40-10:50 No Passes Sat 11:15-12:10-1:40-2:40-4:05-5:10-6:15-7:35-8:40-10:50 No Passes Sun 11:10-12:10-1:40-2:40-4:05-5:10-6:15-7:35-8:40-10:50 No Passes Tue 11:10-12:10-1:40-2:40-4:05-5:10-6:15-7:35-8:40-10:50
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Tue 11:20-1:45-4:10-6:45-9:15
The Descendants (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:20 Mon 1:30-4:30-10:20 Tue 1:30-4:30
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Tue 7:10-30 No Passes Wed-Thu 11:30-3:6:50-10:25 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-4-7:30-10:55
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri-Tue 12:15 Wed-Thu 12:15-2:50-5:40-8:15-10:45
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri-Tue 2:50-5:40-8:15-10:45
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-7:05-10:05
Immortals (18A) Fri 11:15-2:05-4:50-7:35-10:35 Sat 4:50-7:35-10:35 Sun 11:15-2:05-4:50-7:35-10:35
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Giovanni - Encore (STC) Sat 10:55
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) No Passes Tue 7:30-10:45 No Passes Wed 12:30-3:40-10:10 No Passes Thu 12:30-

3:40-7:10-10:10
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 11-2-5-8-11

The Muppets (G) Fri-Thu 12:25-4:5-5:30-8:10-10:50

New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Mon 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:40 Tue 7:45-10:40 Wed 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:40 Thu 4:45-7:45-10:40 Tue 1:15-4

The Nutcracker - Bolshoi Ballet Encore (STC) Sun 1 Mon 6:30

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:05-4:10-7:10-7:45-10:15-10:50 No Passes Sun

The Nutcracker - Bolshoi Ballet Encore (STC) Sun 1 Mon 6:30

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:05-4:10-7:10-7:45-10:15-10:50 No Passes Sun

The Sitter (14A) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:20-4:40-7:30 Mon 11:50-2:20-4:35-7:9:25 Tue-Thu 11:50-2:20-4:40-7:30

Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Mon 11:40-2:15-4:50-7:50-10:40 Tue 11:40-2:15-4:50

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:07-15-10:15 Mon 12:30-3:30-10:45 Tue-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:15-10:15

A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri 1:40-4:10-6:30-8:45-11 Sat 1:40-4:05-6:30-8:45-11 Sun 4:10-11 Mon 1:40-4:10-6:30-8:45-11 Tue 1:40-4:05

WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2011 (STC) Sun 6

Young Adult (14A) Fri-Wed 11:40-2:10-4:45-7:40-10:10 Thu 4:45-7:40-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

PLAZA THEATRE

1133 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-283-3636

Margin Call (14A) Fri 7-9:15 Sat 2-7-9:15 Sun 12:30-6:30-8:45 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM

2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:55-2:30-5:20-8:05-10:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-12:45-2:35-3:05-5:30-8:10-10:20 No Passes Mon 1:10-2:45-3:30-5:50-8:15-10:35 No Passes Tue 12:50-2:45-4:05-7:15-10:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:10-12:50-2:45-4:05-7:15-10:15
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:25-2:50-5:15-7:40-10:05 Mon-Tue 2:50-5:15-7:40-10:05 Wed-Thu 12:25-2:50-5:15-7:40-10:05
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Tue 7:10-40 No Passes Wed-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:40
Happy Feet Two (G) Wed-Thu 12-2:35-5:20-7:50-10:25
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri-Sat 12-2:45-5:20-8:15-10:50 Sun 12-2:45-5:20-8:15 Mon-Tue 2:35-5:20-7:50-10:25
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:3-50-6:45-9:40 Mon-Tue 1:05-4:05-7:10-10:10
Immortals 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:40-7:50 Mon-Tue 2:40-5:25-8:10-10:35 Wed-Thu 12:05-2:40-5:25-8:10-10:35
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Sat 1:20-3:40-6:55-9:30 Sun 1:20-3:40-9:30 Mon 1:20-3:40-6:45-9:30 Tue 1:20-3:40
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:30-4:30-7:45-10:45 No Passes Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 1-4-7:30-10:30 No Passes Tue

7:10:05 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:05-3:05-6:45-9:45

The Muppets (G) Fri-Sun 11:55-2:30-5:05-7:55-10:30 Mon-Tue 2:30-5:05-7:55-10:30

New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Sat 2:10-5:7:50-10:40 Sun-Thu 1:55-4:45-7:35-10:20

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:05-4:10-7:10-7:45-10:15-10:50 No Passes Sun

The Nutcracker - Bolshoi Ballet Encore (STC) Sun 1 Mon 6:30

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:05-4:10-7:10-7:45-10:15-10:50 No Passes Sun

The Sitter (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:45-6:8:15-10:35 Mon-Tue 1:30-3:45-6:8:10-10:35 Wed 3:45-6:8:10-10:35 Thu 1:30-3:45-6:8:10-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

The Sitter (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:45-6:8:15-10:35 Mon-Tue 1:30-3:45-6:8:10-10:35 Wed 3:45-6:8:10-10:35 Thu 1:30-3:45-6:8:10-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:30-9:15 Mon 1:35-8:10-10:25 Tue 1:35-8:10-10:25

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:15-7:20-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:20-10:10

WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2011 (STC) Sun 6

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Listings not available at press time. ©Cinema name Theatre 6:Westhills 10

165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:05-9:50

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-2:30-4:40-7:10-9:30 No Passes Mon-Tue 6:10-8:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:35-3:7:20-9:30

Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Sun 1:40 Mon-Tue 5:30 Wed-Thu 1:35

Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4:15-6:50-9:20 Mon-Tue 7:45 Wed-Thu 4:20

The Descendants (14A) Fri-Sun 3:05-3:50-6:40-9:40 Mon-Tue 5:30-8:05 Wed-Thu 12:5-3:55-6:40-9:40

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Tue 8:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 12-3:30-7:10:20

Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-4-7:50-10:10 Mon-Tue 5:20-8 Wed 7:10-10 Thu 10

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) No Passes Tue 8:50 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:10-3:10-6:50-10:10

The Muppets (G) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:05-7:30-10 Mon-Tue 5:25-7:50 Wed-Thu 1:05-4:7:25-9:55

New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:20-7:45-10:30 Mon-Tue 6:20-9 Wed-Thu 12:30-3:35-6:30-9:20

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-7:20-10:20 No Passes Mon-Tue 5:50-8:40 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-3:20-7:35-10:30

The Sitter (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:7:55-10:15 Mon 5:45-8:30 Tue 5:45

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:10-6:30-9:10 Mon 6:8-50 Tue 6

Young Adult (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:35-10:05 Mon-Tue 5:20-7:35 Wed-Thu 1:10-4:25-7:45-10:05



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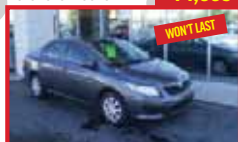
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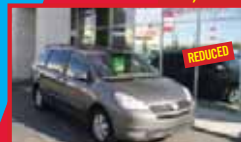
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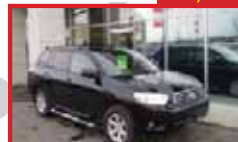
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Golden Globe winners, losers

► With nominations announced Thursday, *The Artist* earned the most at six ► Here's who looks good and who doesn't



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METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Awards season officially kicks off with the nominations for the 2012 Golden Globes, and as usual the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) didn't disappoint by both focusing the Oscar race and throwing in a few head-scratchers. Here's the breakdown.

BIGGEST WINNERS

Woody Allen should be smiling. Long a favourite of the HFPA, the director's latest film, *Midnight in Paris*, gets an impressive awards-season boost thanks to its four Globe nods, including both screenplay and directing for Allen.

And between his acting

in *The Descendants* and directing in *The Ides of March*, George Clooney will have plenty of reasons to show up.

Ryan Gosling is certainly enjoying his nominations in both Best Actor categories.

As far as sheer numbers, silent film *The Artist* — an Oscar front-runner since making a splash at Cannes — had the most nominations at six, but *The Help* and *The Descendants* are close behind at five.

Usual awards heavyweights the Weinstein Company and HBO lead the film and TV packs with 12 and 18 nominations, respectively.

British series *Downton Abbey*, which airs in the U.S. as part of Masterpiece Theater, received the most TV nominations, with four.



► Ryan Gosling was nominated for two Best Actor awards.

BIGGEST SNUBS

The most glaring omission to awards watchers is Stephen Spielberg. Even though his two films, *War Horse* and *The Adventures*

of *Tintin*, are nominated, he was edged out of the directing category.

David Fincher might be feeling overlooked as well, as his *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* only pulled in nominations for Trent Reznor's score and Rooney Mara's performance.

Also, not a single nomination for British spy thriller *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*.

And on the TV side, fans were hoping critical darling *Community* could pick up some Comedy nominations to help its fight against impending cancellation, but the series was completely overlooked.

BIGGEST SURPRISES

Many had believed Disney would run *The Help* on the Musical or Comedy side for the Globes, giving the pop-

ular hit an easier chance at picking up some trophies, but its inclusion in Drama means presumed Oscar front-runners Viola Davis and Meryl Streep (for *The Iron Lady*) are going head-to-head earlier than expected.

In TV, the biggest shock has to be the HFPA's apparent love of Ryan Murphy. While a Best Series — Musical or Comedy nod for *Glee* isn't surprising, the organization apparently flipped for his new less-than-acclaimed horror series, *American Horror Story*, giving it mentions for Best Series, Drama and Best Supporting Actress for Jessica Lange.

BIGGEST REASON TO WATCH

Aside from the showdown between Streep and Davis, the other big reason to

Mark your calendar

The Golden Globe Awards will be handed out live on Jan. 15 in Los Angeles.

watch is to see what Ricky Gervais does to make the HFPA regret inviting him back as host.

The organization is notorious for its love of celebrities, so, not so surprising are nominations for Clooney, Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie — her *In the Land of Blood and Honey* is up for Best Foreign Language Film.

If Johnny Depp shows up to support Best Animated Feature nominee *Rango*, they'll have done their job.

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With a week to go, what do you get the music fan on your list?

Here's what I'm hoping to find under the tree. Not that I'm hinting or anything...

Bob Marley headphones

Everyone from Dr. Dre on down seems to get into the celebrity-endorsed headphone game. The new Positive Vibration headphones from the House of Marley sound good and are reasonably priced. They also come in a variety of colour schemes including Rasta. (thehouseofmarley.com)

Deluxe edition of The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo Soundtrack

Yes, there is life beyond Nine Inch Nails. After winning an Oscar for the soundtrack for The Social Network, Trent Reznor and partner Atticus Ross

wrote the music for the Hollywood version of Stieg Larsson's best-selling novel. You can spend as little as \$12 for a download or \$300 for this deluxe edition featuring CDs, vinyl and autographs in an ornate box. Yes, I said \$300. (nullco.com/GDT/)

Electronic Rock Guitar Shirt

It looks like a regular T-shirt with a guitar on the front.

The difference is that you can actually play this guitar. Each button on the neck corresponds to a major chord so anyone can play it. It even comes with an amp that you clip to your belt. Endless fun for about \$20. (thinkgeek.com)

Giant Boombox Dock for iPod/iPhone

Remember the '80s when everyone carried around cassette players the size of suitcases that weighed as much as a small child? Now you can relive those backaches with an i-dock that needs 6D batteries. And it's just \$200. (ihomeaudio.com/iP4ZC)

Ramones Throbblesheads

They're just like bobbleheads except cooler.

Start with the Ramones and move on to other figures from the golden age of punk. You can't go wrong for \$11 each. (agronautix.com)

Drummer T-Shirts

If you don't count all those accordion lessons I took as a kid, my instrument is the drums.

A site called Drumbum offers all kinds of gifts for drummers and other musicians. I'm hoping for the More Cowbell T-shirt. And just \$20, too. (store.drumbum.com)

Pod Power

If you're into music, chances are you have all kinds of electronic gear with those this bulky power bricks that are tough to plug into standard power strips. Why did it take so long to invent something as simple and as useful as this? For \$35, I'll take half a dozen. (quirky.com)

ALAN IS THE HOST OF THE RADIO SHOW THE SECRET HISTORY OF ROCK. REACH HIM AT ALAN@ALANCROSS.CA



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8 modern Hanukkah songs



MIKE DOJC
2FORCOUPLES.COM
SCENE@METRONWS.CA

While the songbook for Judaism's festival of lights still lags well behind Christmas, the holiday has been punching above its weight class in recent years. Adam Sandler's Hanukkah song, originally performed on SNL's Week-

end Update in 1994, really got the wax spinning on the modern age of Hanukkah tuneage. Get your Hanukkah groove on with one modern track for each night of the celebration.

1. CANDLELIGHT by Maccabeats

This clever parody of Dynamite by Taio Cruz has racked up more than 5.7

million views on YouTube. The Maccabeats, an a cappella group composed of students from New York's Yeshiva University, have performed at Madison Square Garden and The White House.

2. MIRACLE by Matisyahu

The Hasidic reggae star known for his prodigious beat-boxing skills brings

us a sweet and spiritual holiday ballad. And in the video, Matisyahu showcases his lighter side by getting hip-checked on a skating rink and having a surreal daydream where he tangles with King Antiochus, some random hockey goons and the Nutcracker.

3. LONELY JEW ON CHRISTMAS

by Trey Parker

Kyle Broflowski's tender yet occasionally potty-mouthed tour de force from South Park's famous Mr. Hankey, the Christmas Poo episode from season one. Thanks to Kyle and Mr. Hankey, the denizens of the fictional Colorado town learn that Christmas and Chanukah can coexist.

4. HOW DO YOU SPELL CHAN-



► South Park has their own take on the tunes.



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They can Dø no wrong



PAT HEALY
SCENE@METRONWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN BOSTON

Both Ways Open Jaws, the recently released album by The Dø, enters through a rare window in time where it will probably make a lot of music publications' and Internet Best of 2011 lists.

Then when writers who don't put them on that list see that some of their peers have chosen it, the French duo's album will inevitably make their 'ones to watch' in 2012 lists.

This album is the second for The Dø. With their debut, A Mouthful, they became the first English-speaking French act to top

the charts in their homeland.

"I spoke Finnish and French when I started speaking," says Merilahti. "Then I just listened to so many different (English-speaking/writing) singers and I really wanted to know what the songs were about, so I always read the booklets very carefully and wanted to learn the words

I didn't know. That's how I built my vocabulary."

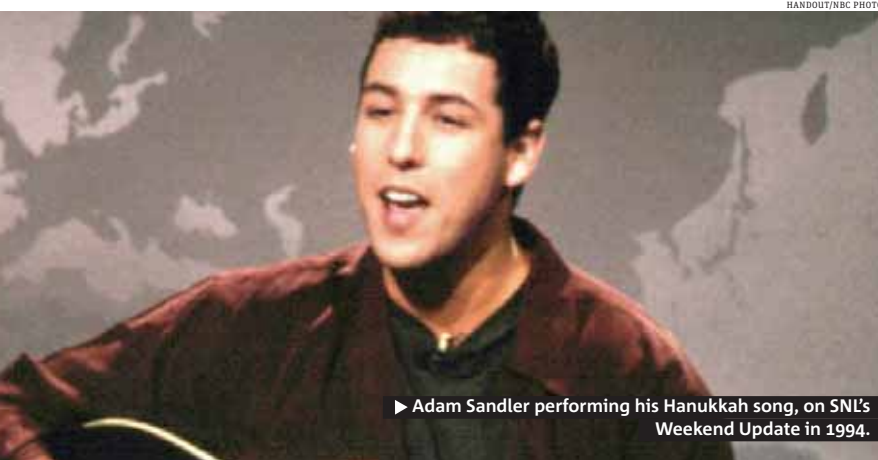
Despite the language gap, the music remains very open and has an ability to relate to listeners and draw them in.

"I really have a certain distance with the lyrics and they're all so very intimate," she says.

"It's very difficult for me to describe."



► Singer Olivia Bouyssou Merilahti of The Dø



► Adam Sandler performing his Hanukkah song, on SNL's Weekend Update in 1994.

NUKKAHH? by The LeeVees

The holiday is spelled a few ways, with Hanukkah and Chanukah being the most popular. This is the most memorable track off 2005's Hanukkah Rocks album, a collaboration between Guster's Adam Gardner and The Zambonis' Dave Schneider.

5. FEAST OF LIGHTS

by They Might Be Giants

These quirky indie rock darlings known for the catchy geek anthems Birdhouse In Your Soul and Malcolm in the Middle theme song Boss Of Me

concoct a downbeat ode to the holiday blahs.

6. MEMORIES OF A WINTER'S NIGHT

by David Koz

The lone instrumental Chanukah track on our list comes courtesy of butter-smooth saxophone player Koz, the heir apparent to Kenny G. The twinkling piano and vibrant sax solos are very seasonal.

7. HANUKKAH BLESSINGS by Barenaked Ladies

One of a trio of Hanukkah tracks on BNL's Barenaked for the Holidays album from 2004. On this earnest medley, Stephen Page

weaves both of Hanukkah's candle-lighting blessings into the song, adding religious heft to the tune.

8. LOVE YOU BETTER by The Maccabees

While these Brighton-based Brit-poppers claim they picked their band name by randomly skimming the Bible, by adopting the namesake of the heroes of Chanukah, the small yet determined Jewish rebel army who rose up against their Syrian-Greek oppressors, their music is certainly holiday appropriate.



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Their name

Why Dø they call themselves that?

► What's in a name The Dø pronounce their name like 'dough' as in the first note of the solfège scale, as in do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do. But what is that little slash through the o? "We just wanted it to look like a note, like when you write music in music theory," says Merilahti. "It really

looks like a musical symbol."

There are hints of influences all over Both Ways Open Jaws, but instead of rattling them off as reference points, we gave Merilahti a chance to confirm or deny them.

► Did you listen to Stereolab growing up? No, not at all, and someone told me about them a couple of days ago. They said, 'You should tour with Stereolab

if they still played together,' or something. Maybe Dan has, but I'm not sure.

► How about Radiohead? It's kind of a late reference for both of us. ... Dan didn't listen to many songs when he was younger. He was more into instrumental and 20th century classical music or jazz, and I was always like, 'Oh everyone's listening to Radiohead,' so I wouldn't. ... But it's kind of impossible to ignore.

● PAT HEALY/METRO BOSTON

Eastwood doing reality TV? Please say it ain't so

► Actor's family set to star in show produced by makers of Kardashian series

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



The news that Clint Eastwood and his family are making a reality TV show is making me feel all Dirty Harry on the inside.

Yes, TMZ.com is reporting that Eastwood's wife and two daughters are shooting a new reality show that will explore what it's like to be "Hollywood royalty" for the E! Network (editor's note: All reality TV shows are about this. Change it up, people).

Per TMZ, it will focus on the relationship between Clint's wife Dina Eastwood, their daughter Mor-

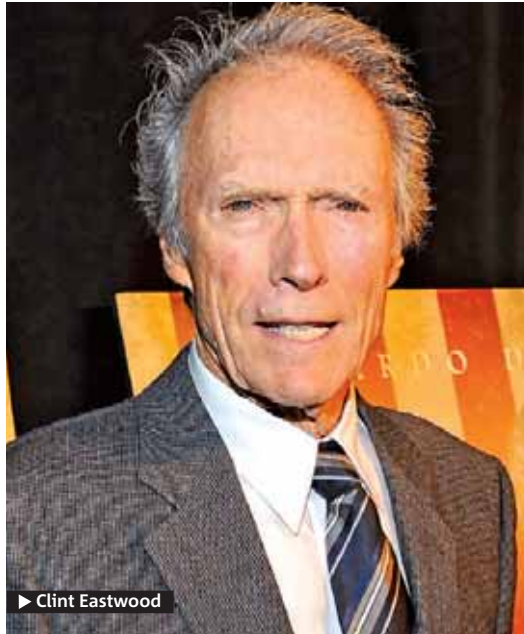
gan and Clint's 18-year-old daughter Francesca. It is being produced by the same company that is also responsible for the Kardashian series.

Honestly, folks, let's just give up.

Because if Clint, 81, succumbs to the siren call of reality TV, there is no hope for the rest of it.

It's because he and his family are "Hollywood royalty" that they don't have to sink to this, even if the focus is going to be on Francesca, an aspiring actress (second note: If your dad is Clint Eastwood and you need to have a reality TV show to gain traction, you must be a terrible actress).

Come on, Clint. You starred in Gran Torino — please don't go down with-



► Clint Eastwood

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Celebrity tweets



Trivia: In the Jerk, after we sing "Tonight, You Belong to Me," when I stand up you can hear a crack as I step on the ukulele.



@SteveMartinToGo

@BettyBuckley

My absolutely "nothing" day! Ahhhh. But maybe I'll start the Michael Connelly book. I am so excited about all the new movies comin' out!



@pennjillette

I don't ever touch my hair unless I'm going on stage. I don't

look in mirrors. This is the way I look. I'll try to remember to smile



@SethMacFarlane

I wonder what President the corporations are gonna buy us

next year!

Miley says her twins are real

After turning heads in a low-cut dress at CNN's recent Heroes gala, Miley Cyrus is fighting back against speculation that she's had breast augmentation surgery.

"Thank you for the compliment but these babies are all mine," she posted to Twitter in response to the claims.

"I wish they'd realize you don't have to be fake to be beautiful."

● METRO



Miley Cyrus

Suri Cruise rakes it in for Christmas



► Suri Cruise

Suri Cruise doesn't skimp when it comes to asking for things from Santa.

Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' daughter reportedly has a Christmas list of items that total \$130,000, according to In Touch Weekly.

Topping the 5-year-old's list are a pony, diamond earrings and gowns that will make her look "like a

fairy princess," according to the magazine.

And Cruise has reportedly already found a stable in Beverly Hills for the pony.

"Tom and Katie love the holidays and always go overboard," a source says.

"Suri is very mature and knows what she wants."

● METRO

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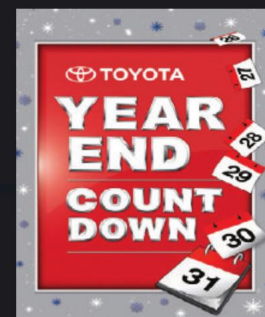
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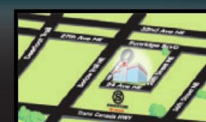
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- Use a frying thermometer to monitor the oil temperature. Cool oil will give you greasy results.

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Put wine love into words



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When I was a young wine expert in training, there was no Internet. If you wanted to learn anything about anything, you had to look it up in a book.

Back in the day there wasn't a wine scribe more famous than Hugh Johnson — a gregarious Brit with a casual way of delivery on vino that paved the way for today's first person blogger culture.

Johnson is still writing up a storm with his Pocket Wine Book 2012 (Mitchell Beazley, \$16.99), the undisputed bible for any wine lover on the go. Ever the literary entrepreneur, this year he's created a Wine Journal (Mitchell Beazley, \$17.99) that will allow vinophiles to write their own reviews and keep track of what they're putting in their mouths.

The journal would make a great Christmas gift, especially when paired with a wine worth writing about. France's Père Anselme La Fiole du Pape Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$35.49 - \$39.50) is a non-vintage blend of up to 13 grapes with a rustic, dark fruited personality perfect for holiday drinking. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**



Get sweet on Hanukkah

► Bake up some delicious treats inspired by the upcoming Jewish holiday

Preparation:

- 1** In medium bowl, whisk flour, baking soda and salt. Set aside. In small saucepan over medium, heat milk until steaming. Remove pan from heat and add buttermilk. Pour mix into bowl of stand mixer fitted with dough hook. Whisk in yeast and sugar. Let stand 5 mins.
- 2** Coat large bowl with vegetable oil; set aside.
- 3** Add flour mix to milk mix and mix on low until dry ingredients are moistened and form ball, about 3 mins. Increase speed to medium and continue mixing 2 mins. Dough will be quite sticky. Transfer dough to prepared bowl, cover with plastic wrap and set aside in a draft-free spot. Let rise until doubled in size, about 1 hour.

- 4** Fill deep sauté pan with 7.5 cm (3 inches) of oil.

Ingredients:

- 1 l plus 50 ml (4 1/4 cups) bread flour, plus more for dusting work surface
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) baking soda
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) milk



► This recipe makes 24 large or 48 small Sufganiyot.

Heat over medium to 190 C (375 F). Line large plate with paper towels.

- 300 ml (1 1/4 cups) buttermilk
- 20 ml (4 tsp) dry active yeast
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) sugar
- Vegetable oil, for frying
- Powdered sugar, for dusting

- 5** Lightly flour clean work surface. Turn dough out onto surface. Dust top of dough with flour, press to flatten. Fold dough in half and tuck ends under to create a ball. Dust with flour again and use rolling pin to roll dough into roughly a 28-by-43-cm (11-by-17-inch) rectangle about 5 mm (1/4 inch) thick.

Fillings

To fill the Sufganiyot, use either a syringe-like pastry filling tool or slice open one side with a paring knife and use a spoon.

- A few slices of fresh banana and a generous spoonful of hot fudge.
- Ricotta cheese mixed with chopped walnuts, golden raisins and a drizzle of honey.
- Cream cheese topped with some chunky strawberry jam.
- A chocolate-nut spread (such as Nutella), topped with chopped peanuts and marshmallow spread.

- 6** Using sharp knife, cut dough lengthwise into 4 equal strips, then cut horizontally, at angle, to create 24 or 48 diamond-shaped pieces.

- 7** Working in batches, carefully drop pieces of dough into hot oil, being careful not to crowd pan. Fry, turning often with slotted spoon, until puffed and golden, 2 mins. Transfer to plate to drain while frying remaining Sufganiyot. Fill or top as desired. Serve warm, dusted with powdered sugar.

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Top tech toys

company has now expanded into the tablet market. The affordable Kobo Vox is a colour eReader, which doubles as an entry-level Android tablet. Read books, surf the web, send email or download one of more than 15,000 apps. The Kobo Vox is not as fast as some of the top-selling tablets on the market, but makes a great gift for someone who wants an easy-to-use device.

TDK Boombox — \$399

The '80s are making a comeback! TDK, the company best known for blank cassette tapes, is bringing the boombox back. This high-end audio system is made from quality materials including glass and aluminum. Two powerful six-inch coaxial drivers deliver clear vocals and crisp highs while a six-inch subwoofer provides superior bass. Supports most audio devices, even instruments! Carry this beauty on your shoulder this Christmas and make a statement.

ION iCade — \$99.99

Turn your iPad into an authentic arcade cabinet. Made from wood, this cabinet features buttons and a joystick to ensure you get the nostalgic feeling of

stepping into an arcade. No quarters needed! The iCade is compatible with more than 100 classic Atari games such as Asteroids, Centipede, and Battlezone (each sold separately).

Viper SmartStart — starting at \$349 (price depends on vehicle)

Tired of getting into a cold vehicle? Why not use your smartphone to start your vehicle so it's toasty warm when you climb in. Viper's SmartStart system works off your cell signal so you can start your vehicle from practically anywhere you get reception. No need for a remote on your key ring. You can also lock, arm, unlock, pop the trunk or set off a panic alarm. Works with most smartphones.

Nike+ SportsWatch GPS — \$199

Need encouragement to get in shape? This watch may just be what you are looking for. Nike has teamed up with TomTom to design the perfect GPS watch to track time, pace, distance, calories burned,

and heart rate while running. You can even go online and take a look at your running history and interact with runners around the globe. Wear it while running or use it as an everyday watch.

Darth Vader Toaster — \$49.99

Enjoy your toast on the dark side? This dual-slotted toaster is for you. This officially licensed toaster will help you leave the mark of Vader's helmet on every piece of bread in your home on Christmas morning. Optional temperature settings ensure each slice is toasted to perfection.

Parrot AR.Drone Quadricopter — \$329

Boys love their toys and here's one that will keep them entertained for

hours. Parrot's AR.Drone is like a helicopter, only with four sets of spinning blades. The Drone is controlled through your iPhone and iPad. What really sets this gadget apart from other flying toys are the two cameras mounted on the device to give you a bird's-eye view from the air on your phone. You can also download augmented reality games such as a dog-fighting simulator, which uses the cameras on the Drone. Make sure you buy an extra battery since one charge will only give you about 10 minutes of flight!

Crayola ColorStudio HD — \$29.99

Turn your iPad into a colouring book! Download the special app, select your colour, tip shape and then draw right on your iPad with the digital iMarker. It feels just like a real Crayola marker! Download new pages, background music and sound effects. It's like having a never-ending colouring book!

Darth Vader Toaster, \$49.99, top, TDK Boombox, \$399, left.



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Still looking for that special something for that gadget lover in your life? There are so many gadgets and so little time before Christmas! Let us help you weed out the good from the bad with this list of must-have tech toys sure to please that nerd in your life.

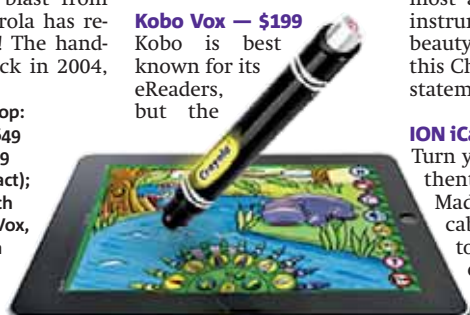
Motorola Razr — \$649 (no contract); \$149 (three-year contract)

Now here's a blast from the past! Motorola has revived the Razr! The handset debuted back in 2004,



Kobo Vox — \$199

Kobo is best known for its eReaders, but the



Clockwise, from top: Motorola Razr, \$649 (no contract), \$149 (three-year contract); Nike+ SportsWatch GPS, \$199; Kobo Vox, \$199; and Crayola ColorStudio HD, \$29.99.

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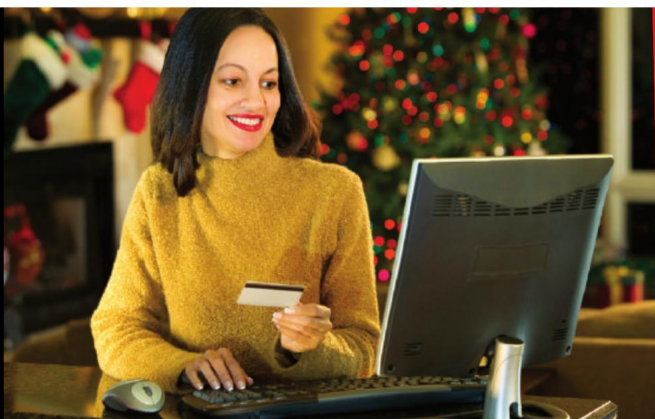


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ONLINE SHOPPING

You have to admit it, there's something pretty appealing about being able to do your Christmas shopping from the comfort of your own home. No need to circle around mall

parking lots looking for elusive parking spaces, no need to wrestle with awkward packages and, of course, no need to even change out of your pyjamas.

From research and comparison shopping to purchase and delivery, many people are discovering

that online is the way to shop. The Internet offers almost endless ideas for finding the perfect gift for everyone on your shopping list. If you are thinking about doing some of your Christmas online this year, here are some pointers to help make the experience an efficient and enjoyable one.

OBTAIN A CREDIT CARD FOR ONLINE PURCHASES

Scotiabank has a suite of Momentum Visa Cards that offer cash-back rewards from 1 per cent to 4 per cent. To help decide which card is right for you, try the Momentum Cash Back Calculator at scotiabank.com/momentumcashback.

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW about shipping specials and other discounts by signing up for e-mail discounts from your favourite shops.

BOOKMARK SITES designed for Canadian shoppers. Canada Post Comparison Shopper (canadapost.ca/shopper), for example, analyzes products and deals from hundreds of stores in Canada and the U.S. Another site, Canada Shopping Links



JUPITERIMAGES/BRAND X PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

(canadashoppinglinks.com) guides you to Canada's Internet retailers.

DETAILS When you're considering a purchase, pay attention to any terms and conditions, warranties, shipping facts and other important details.

REVIEW THE VENDOR'S RETURN POLICY Even the savviest of shoppers can end up with clothing that doesn't fit, is the wrong colour or wasn't quite what he or she expected.

With Dec. 25 fast approaching, make sure you also factor in delivery time. Some sites offer express shipping, but it's best to get your shopping done sooner than later to ensure that your special gift makes it under the tree in time for Christmas!

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FIVE TIPS FOR WRAPPING UP CHRISTMAS

Say so long to Christmas-Eve chaos this year by wrapping holiday gifts well before Christmas. Here are a few tips to make the job easy and enjoyable.

SET UP A DESIGNATED WRAPPING AREA and ensure you have all the gift-wrapping essentials before you start. These include scissors,

tape, gift tags, paper and ribbon.
Tip: Double-sided tape stays put and out of sight.

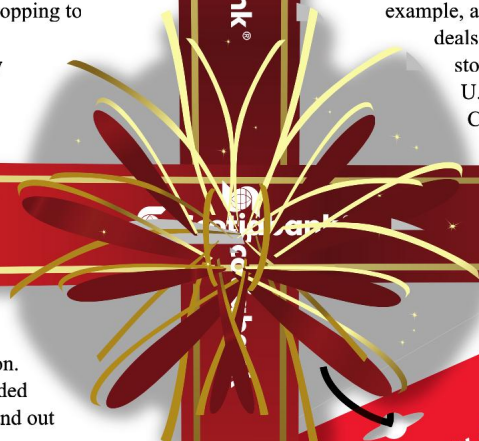
USE CLEAR OR PRINTED CELLOPHANE BAGS to wrap beauty products, candies, or baked goods. Seal the bag with ribbon or raffia and add some seasonal stickers to finish the job.

PICK UP PAPER GIFT BAGS AT YOUR LOCAL DOLLAR STORE Bags are affordable and available in a variety of sizes and patterns.

PURCHASE A GLUE GUN AT THE CRAFT STORE Glue guns are fun and easy to use and can transform an ordinary gift into a masterpiece.

CUSTOMIZE YOUR GIFT with seasonal greenery, pine cones, or artificial flower sprigs.

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TOP 10 SONGS OF THE SEASON

When it comes to choosing the top 10 Christmas songs of all time, where do you start? Over the years, the airwaves have treated us to a variety of classics sung by everyone from Bing Crosby and Nat "King" Cole to Band Aid and Mariah Carey.

ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COMPOSERS, AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS (ASCAP), THE TOP 10 ARE:

1. The Christmas Song (Nat "King" Cole)
2. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas (The Pretenders)
3. Winter Wonderland (Eurythmics)
4. Santa Claus Is Coming To Town (Bruce Springsteen)
5. White Christmas (Bing Crosby)
6. Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! (Andy Williams)
7. Jingle Bell Rock (Bobby Helms)
8. Little Drummer Boy (The Harry Simeone Chorale & Orchestra)
9. Sleigh Ride (The Ronettes)
10. Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer (Gene Autry)

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Kerastase Homme Capital Force Daily Treatment Shampoo Anti-Oiliness Effect cleanses oil-prone hair without stripping it dry, and leaves scalp feeling comfortable, too. \$35, kerastase.com for salons.

L'Occitane Verdon Fresh Water Shower Body & Hair two-in-one wash saves

time as it wakes him up with its waterfall-fresh scent. \$18, loccitane.com.

New **Gillette Fusion ProGlide Irritation 5 Defense Shave Gel** foams up to a rich beard-softening lather, and is souped up with glide-enhancing lubricants for a gentle, yet close shave. \$7.49 at drugstores and mass retailers.

Biotherm Homme Aquapower D-Sensitive Soothing & Fortifying Af-

ter Shave Moisturizer is fragrance- and alcohol-free, and enriched with Biotherm's signature Pure Thermal Plankton Extract plus calcium. \$30, biotherm-homme.ca.

Kiehl's Facial Fuel Transformer Age Correcting Moisture Gel for Men nudges the clock back on fine lines, uneven skin tone and pesky large pores with a light, quick-absorb formula. \$35, kiehls.ca.

All-natural Consonant Body Antioxidant Superhero Serum doses skin

with vitamins, minerals, and mattifying marine clay. **Ultra Moisturizing Organic Face Cream** moisturizes intensely without an oily finish. \$63 and \$54 respectively, consonant-body.com.

Talc-free Jack Black Performance Remedy Dry Down Friction-Free Powder is a cornstarch, cucum-

Gillette Fusion ProGlide Irritation 5 Defense Shave Gel, left, The Body Shop Hemp Hand Protector and Hemp Body Butter, below, and All-Natural Consonant Ultra Moisturizing Organic Face Cream for Dry Skin and Body Antioxidant Superhero Serum.



Body Shop Hemp Hand Protector and Hemp Body Butter consistently seems to meet with their approval. That's a win-win. \$10 and \$18, respectively, thebodyshop.ca.

Best man-bribe? A massage, especially with **Weleda Arnica Massage Oil**, which will help warm and relax sore, tired muscles. Plus it will put him in a receptive mood so you can tell him a massage is an excellent bribe for you, too. \$24, well.ca, Rexall Pharma Plus, Whole Foods.



From left: Weleda Arnica Massage Oil; Talc-free Jack Black Performance Remedy Dry Down Friction-Free Powder; Biotherm Homme Aquapower D-Sensitive Soothing & Fortifying After Shave Moisturizer; Giorgio Armani Code Sport; Kerastase Homme Capital Force Daily Treatment Shampoo Anti-Oiliness Effect; L'Occitane Verdon Fresh Water Shower Body & Hair; Kiehl's Facial Fuel Transformer Age Correcting Moisture Gel for Men.

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Every day, from every Winners and HomeSense store, one lucky shopper could win back the value of their holiday purchase. December 1 to 24.





✶ When trying to find a gift for service providers in your life, Charles the Butler advises to make a list of everyone you wish to give a present.

CHARLES THE BUTLER



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The holiday season is supposed to be one of family fun and relaxation; however, sometimes the obligations of the season create unneeded stress.

So how do we deal with the stress of gift giving to service providers?

Firstly, the types of service providers you may wish to thank are the dog walker, newspaper delivery person and mail carrier, just to name a few.

There are two methods for dealing with this.

My favourite is to pick a theme. For example, everyone who works outside gets the same thing, such as a gift card from Tim Hortons or a new

scarf and glove set.

This is always a welcome treat since they can warm up the winter with a hot drink or with their new scarf and gloves.

But what to do if you have people at different levels of what is appropriate to give? For example, what do you give a dog walker versus your math tutor?

1 First, I like to write a list of everyone I wish to give a present.

2 Try to come up with two or three categories, such as small, medium and big, and assign a dollar value to each category.

3 Next, place everyone from your list into one of the three categories. Now you have your list and everyone is easily classified.

So what's next? Pick the presents for each category — small presents are \$5 bars of special soap, the medium category is \$20

bottles of wine and, finally, the big category for only a few people may be chipping in with your brothers and sisters to buy your parents a new TV.

These are the techniques that we as butlers use to help keep the household organized so we can deal with all of the gift giving that may be required.

And it's an easy formula, whether you have to give five, 10 or more presents this holiday season.

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Wines that are fine with various dishes



PETER ROCKWELL

LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

Whether you are serving turkey, ham, lamb or beef this holiday season, odds are you will be washing it down with a glass or two of vino.

Finding wines that will appeal to a crowd and match with your spread can be challenging. These picks will make nice with the big bird and just about anything else you might consider serving.

Freixenet NV Cordon Rosado (\$12.95-\$15.99)

► This ripe, rounded, food-friendly rosé sparkler from Spain is my favourite big meal intro and proves that bubbly ain't just for New Year's Eve anymore.

Moselland 2010 ArsVitis Riesling (\$9.95-\$17.99)

► It's hard to beat the soft, massaging flavours of a

German riesling when it meets a mouthful of a complex meal. This off-dry version works wonders with both turkey and ham.

Caymus 2009 Conundrum (\$23.95-\$29.99)

► This insanely innovative white California mix of more than five grapes drinks like holiday perfection whether before, during or after dinner.

Yalumba 2010 'Y Series' Viognier (\$14.95-\$17.99)

► This Aussie viognier serves up fresh, tropical flavours supported by

a vibrant, white pepper spice that's ideal with any major meal.

Oyster Bay 2010 Chardonnay (\$17.99-\$19.99)

► It's hard to beat the depth of flavour chardonnay brings to the table and this New Zealander shows off the varietal's up-front fruit without going too crazy with the oak.

► It's hard to beat the depth of flavour chardonnay brings to the table and this New Zealander shows off the varietal's up-front fruit without going too crazy with the oak.

Louis Latour 2009 Pinot Noir (\$18.95-\$25.49)

► Roast poultry's red wine BFF is pinot noir. The grape's home region is France's Burgundy and this balanced, berry-forward Frenchman is a classic companion for red and white meats.

Bodegas Montecillo 2008 Crianza (\$14.95-\$19.99)

► Red Rioja from Spain may sound like an unconventional turkey partner, but this wine's lightly wooded, cherry, cedar expression is the bomb.

Frescobaldi 2007 Nipozzano Chianti Riserva (\$19.92-\$27)

► With its full-bodied richness and long in the mouth fruit flavour this Tuscan red really talks turkey.

Père Anselme NV La Fiole du Pape Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$35.49-\$39.50)

► More than just a cool crooked bottle; this tasty, well-balanced French red is a blend of up to 13 different grapes.

Croft Pink Port (\$19.95-\$19.99)

► Serving port chilled is a necessity, serving it ice cold is the wave of the future and this fruit-fest of a fortified wine from Portugal tastes great over ice as a post-dinner sipper.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



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❄ Experts say measuring drinks is important at parties. Not only do drinks taste better, but you are also making sure you are pouring standard pours.

host this holiday season

Pouring drinks for guests can be somewhat intimidating.

People have different preferences, the glassware comes in all shapes and sizes and it can be tricky to get the amounts just right.

The host or hostess will also want to make sure that guests who imbibe over the holidays get home safely, or spend the night on a couch or in the guestroom if need be.

"Part of being a responsible host is definitely to measure your drinks for your guests, and not have an open bar," said Stephanie Petroff, a senior communications consultant for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO).

"Measuring drinks is really important. Not only do drinks taste better, but you're also then making sure that you're pouring standard pours."

If guests request a weaker version of a mixed drink, that's OK, too, she indicated. "If they want to pour their own, have somebody there maybe offering a bit of advice."

Troy Wanner, operations manager for the Fine Art Bartending School, said it's tough to get the amounts right just by eyeballing the glass.

"Definitely have a measuring device of some sort, whether it be a shot glass, a jigger, anything that you can kind of measure your pouring," he said from the school's head office in Kelowna, B.C.

Checklist

Here is a checklist for responsible hosting when alcoholic beverages are being served at a holiday party or get-together:

- ▶ **Don't plan physical activities** when you're serving alcohol. People are more prone to accidents and injury when drinking.
- ▶ **Provide low-alcohol** and alcohol-free drinks, such as mocktails, non-alcoholic punch, pop, water, tea and coffee.
- ▶ **Have food available** to avoid drinking on an empty stomach. Avoid serving salty, sweet or greasy snack foods; they will make your guests thirstier. High-starch and protein foods such as meats, veggies, cheeses, dips and breads are good choices.

Getting the right amount of ice in the glass of a mixed drink can make a huge difference, he added.

"People don't realize that. If you only put a little bit of ice in the glass, then you'll have a lot of mix, whereas if you have the glass full of ice, you're going to have way less mix."

Petroff noted that shapes and sizes of glassware are getting larger, which can contribute to the challenge of mastering the perfect pour.

LCBO launched a new ad recently to encourage people to speak up — address

the elephant in the room — and prevent inebriated guests from getting behind the wheel. A new home bartending challenge on its website (deflatetheelephant.com) allows users to look at various glasses intended for different beverages, and try online to pour the correct amount.

"There's a whole variety of glassware so it's important to be aware that you're not, obviously, filling it to the top or overpouring because then it's hard to, in a sense, control what guests are drinking throughout the evening," Petroff said.

When trying the home bartending challenge, Petroff acknowledged that the wine category was the hardest for her because some wine glasses are almost bowl-like nowadays.

Wanner agreed that there is a tendency to want to overpour with the large goblets.

"If you want to use a bigger glass, you can pre-pour into a smaller dinner wine glass and then dump it into the goblet so you're not overpouring. To eyeball wine into a goblet is next to impossible."

Booze-free options should be available at any festivity — not only for designated drivers, but also so that people who are drinking can pace themselves by consuming non-alcoholic beverages, too.

The website carries more than 50 recipes for mocktails — alcohol-free cocktails. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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THE BLACKBERRY: LOVE IT!

Did you know that Lady Gaga has a BlackBerry? In a picture posted on celebrityblackberrysightings.com, she holds it tightly in her hand as she poses for cameras. The website keeps a running tab on celebrities who have been spotted sporting a BlackBerry. There are also pictures of Brad Pitt with his BlackBerry Torch, Jay-Z holding onto a sleek-looking white BlackBerry Bold, and many others.

But you don't have to be famous to have a BlackBerry. All told, there are 70 million BlackBerry subscribers in 91 countries around the world! In Canada, a wide selection of BlackBerry phones is available on Mobility's unlimited network.

The BlackBerry is famous in its own right. The operating system was developed by Research in Motion (RIM), and every BlackBerry smartphone is an all-in-one mobile phone, email device, web browser and organizer with an intuitive menu system, QWERTY keyboard and easy-to-read display. There are multimedia functions too, for music, videos and photos.

Here's a list of the stand-out features people love about their BlackBerry.

EMAIL

You can't beat the speed of

BlackBerry's email. That's because the BlackBerry user is in an "always on" environment. Let's say you have a BlackBerry Torch 9810. When mail is sent to you, it is picked up immediately and pushed to your BlackBerry where it appears instantly. You can access mail without having to open any special programs or even the BlackBerry browser. And with Mobility's affordable unlimited data options, users can access email as much as they want without being concerned about a huge bill.

INSTANT MESSAGING

The acclaimed BlackBerry Messenger (BBM) gives BlackBerry users a quick, easy way to send instant messages to each other when connected to a wireless network like Mobility's. It's a free app that comes with BlackBerry Internet Service (currently 50 percent off at Mobility), and unlike email, lets you carry on several conversations at the same time. Another great thing about BBM is that it shows you when your messages are delivered (D) and read (R). BlackBerry smartphones support other instant messaging applications too, including MSN Messenger, Yahoo Messenger, Skype and AIM.

SMOOTH OPERATOR

All of the applications included in the

BlackBerry operating system are seamlessly integrated with one another for a convenient and smooth user experience. For example, if you receive an email from one friend that contains a phone number, all you have to do is click on it from within the email application and voila, the number gets dialed. Likewise, you can take a picture on your BlackBerry Curve 9380 and send it to a friend via email from within the camera application.

CHOICE

There is a wide selection of BlackBerry smartphones for consumers to choose from – from the basic BlackBerry Curve 9360 to the ultra-sophisticated BlackBerry Bold 9900 and BlackBerry Torch 9810. You can personalize any of these devices with your favourite ringtones, wallpapers, themes, games and a growing number of software applications and accessories, available from the BlackBerry App Store. Price-wise, there's lots of choice as well. Mobility's BlackBerry smartphones range from the affordable Curve phones (Mobility has the 9360 and 9380 each priced at \$299.99, and starting today the 3G is on sale for \$129.99), to the more premium BlackBerry Torch 9810 priced at \$499.99 and the BlackBerry Bold 9900 priced at \$549.99.

FIVE BLACKBERRY SMARTPHONES TO LOVE

▶ BLACKBERRY CURVE 3G



Connect with your friends and colleagues with the BlackBerry Curve 3G. With wireless networking, it has an optical trackpad, full QWERTY keyboard and 2.0 MP camera and video recording. It also has built-in GPS, BlackBerry Maps, and Social Networking. Regular price \$299.99 at Mobility; sale price \$129.99 while supplies last.

▶ BLACKBERRY CURVE 9360



While it looks and feels like a lightweight (at 99 g and just 11 mm thick), the all-new Curve 9360 is anything but. It has a 5 Megapixel camera with flash, and a fast BlackBerry Browser with seamless panning and zooming, great web-based video and gaming. You'll enjoy fluid animation and stunning graphics too. Regular price \$299.99 at Mobility.

▶ BLACKBERRY CURVE 9380



For fun and easy socializing, the all-new Curve 9380 has a 3.2-inch full touchscreen with optical trackpad for great navigation. This smartphone also has a 5.0 Megapixel camera with video recording capabilities. Regular price \$299.99 at Mobility.

▶ BLACKBERRY TORCH 9810



The all-new BlackBerry Torch 9810 has a full-touch 3.2-inch display, sliding QWERTY keyboard and, BlackBerry 7 OS with Liquid Graphics and the latest multimedia features such as HD video. It also features a speedy 1.2 GHz processor and 5.0 Megapixel camera with flash. Regular price \$499.99 at Mobility.

▶ BLACKBERRY BOLD 9900



The ultra thin and super powerful sleek BlackBerry Bold 9900 combines a 2.8-inch touchscreen and large QWERTY keyboard, ideal for larger fingers and fast texting. Built on BlackBerry 7, it features a fast 1.2GHz processor for fast loading, scrolling and zooming. It also has an HD video camera, Wi-Fi connectivity, GPS Navigation, and 8 GB on-board memory. Regular price \$549.99 at Mobility.

For a limited time, Mobility is offering the Unlimited BlackBerry plan for only \$20. The plan includes unlimited data, BlackBerry Internet Service, Talk and Text – that's 50 per cent off the regular price!

GREAT BLACKBERRY APPS

BLACKBERRY USERS CAN ENJOY USING A VAST NUMBER OF APPS. MANY APPS ARE FREE, SOME YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR. BUT ONCE YOU'VE MADE YOUR SELECTION, YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THEM ANYTIME WITH MOBILICITY'S UNLIMITED DATA ACCESS.

FACEBOOK 2.0 FOR BLACKBERRY

GasBuddy Facebook works with your BlackBerry smartphone to help you stay connected with friends. A single notifications bar at the top of the screen handles friend requests, messages, chats, and general notifications. You'll get messages and updates, see everyone's latest profile pix and be able to accept friend requests – as they arrive. **Free**



CANADIAN WEATHER

Is it going to snow today? Use the Canadian Weather app to find out. It uses the Environment Canada data feed for current conditions, a 7-day forecast and detailed forecast all in one screen! You can display satellite weather maps for North America and Canada too. **Free**



IM+

This mobile chat application allows you to keep up with messages and information in Facebook, Skype, Yahoo, MSM and more. Invite your friends to a group chat and enjoy! You can also integrate it to your BlackBerry inbox and send files, photos and voicemails. **Free**



AP MOBILE

For news junkies on the go, AP Mobile brings you up-to-the-minute local, national and international news. The latest version called AP Mobile World Edition, also offers push alerts, improved navigation, and support for multiple languages as well as BlackBerry OS 7-enhanced video experiences. **Free**



GOOGLE MAPS

Leaving the house? Be sure to have the Google Maps application on your BlackBerry. It lets you see locations nearby, use voice search, traffic, street view and even different map layers and views. The most recent version lets you filter searches by star rating or distance. **Free**



PHOTO STUDIO

Turn your BlackBerry smartphone into a photo editing studio with the Photo Studio for BlackBerry app. With simple but powerful image processing, you can resize, rotate and crop your photos. There are also 70 unique effects. Then, add a frame and share your photo. **Free**



SHAZAM ENCORE

Want to know the name of a song that's playing on the radio? Hold your BlackBerry up to it and Shazam will figure out what it is. It will also give you different options including the ability to buy the track. You can share 'tags', read reviews of songs, watch YouTube videos, view lyrics and more! **Compliments of BlackBerry for a limited time**



ONE TOUCH FLASHLIGHT

This flashlight app comes with a one touch on/off icon and claims to be the brightest flashlight for when you're looking for keys you've dropped on the ground at night... or anytime! It uses BlackBerry video light not the low-light LED screen light so it delivers more light more quickly. No wonder *Fortune Magazine* rated this popular app one of the best! **Free**



KINDLE FOR BLACKBERRY

Now you can read Kindle books on your smartphone. Download the latest bestseller at home and conveniently catch up on your reading during the train ride home on your BlackBerry. **Free**



SLACKER RADIO

If music makes your world go around, this is a great app for your BlackBerry smartphone. Slacker Radio is great for streaming music. You can tune into over 100 radio stations or create your own custom station from millions of songs. On-demand access requires a Slacker Premium Radio Subscription. **Free**



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Pretty woman

► Ten top-to-toe gifts for her



JANINE FALCON
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The KeratinPerfect Perfect Treatment Smoothing Duo safely tames stubborn, wayward hair into a smooth, swiny, glossy finish at home. \$65, Sephora.

Mineral-rich **Boscia Luminizing Black Mask** purifies skin as it softens, brightens and energizes. Plus, it looks wicked cool on the face — cuz, yep, it's black. \$41 at Sephora.

Outfitted in a sweet tweed case, the **Dior Deluxe Holiday Palette** features a smoky-eyes duo and nude lip shade, nude-eyes duo and red lip shade, plus lip balm, powder and mascara. \$90, The Bay.



Did someone say stress? Not us, at least not after time spent with the eucalyptus and spearmint **Bath & Body Works Stress Relief Set**, which includes body wash and foam bath, body lotion, a candle and massage oil. \$49.50, bathandbodyworks.com.

Die-hard DIY manicure fans can get in on the no-chip, soak-off gel mani action with the **Nailene Professional UV Gel System**.

With practice, it delivers salon-comparable results.



From \$9.99 to \$79.99, Shoppers Drug Mart.

With hands so much in the beauty spotlight, this **Crabtree & Evelyn Hand Therapy Kit with La Source Hand Recovery, Hand Therapy, Nail & Cuticle Cream** and a nail buffer, is a must-give. \$35, crabtree-evelyn.com for stores.

Iconic fragrance **L'Air du Temps** has a heritage that dates back to 1948. This year's **Nina Ricci L'Air**,

an airy, romantic floral, is the scent's youthful spin-off — the pair makes a lovely mother-daughter gift. From \$80, The Bay.

This luxurious, perfumed **Guerlain Vol de Nuit Powder Spray** is irresistibly iridescent with shimmering pale pink and hints of silver and blue-green sparkle. \$100, Guerlain counters.

A soothing, fragrant blend of

natural calendula, grape-seed, arnica, sandalwood and neroli oils, **Tata Harper Revitalizing Body Oil** beautifully conditions skin without leaving it slick. \$90, Gee Beauty, 416-486-0080.

The **Airplus Spa Value**

Set is stocked with excellent foot care formulas plus a full-size pair of cosy, cloud-soft, aloe-infused socks — hugs for hardworking feet after a long day. \$12.99, Shoppers Drug Mart, Zellers Pharmacy.

Clockwise from top: Bath & Body Works Stress Relief Set; Guerlain Vol de Nuit Powder Spray; Nailene Professional UV Gel System; Crabtree & Evelyn Hand Therapy Kit with La Source Hand Recovery, Hand Therapy, Nail & Cuticle Cream; Dior Deluxe Holiday Palette; Airplus Spa Value Set; Nina Ricci L'Air; Tata Harper Revitalizing Body Oil; Boscia Luminizing Black Mask.



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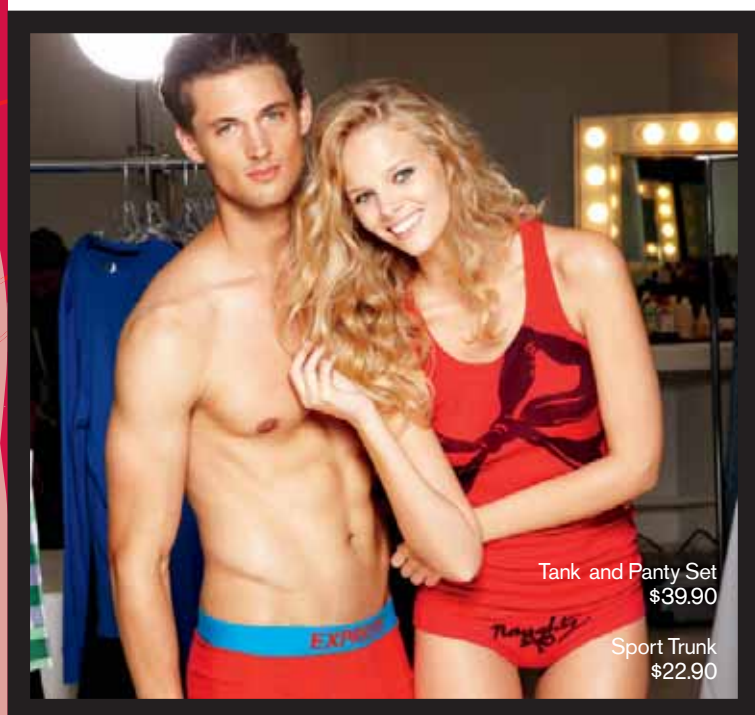
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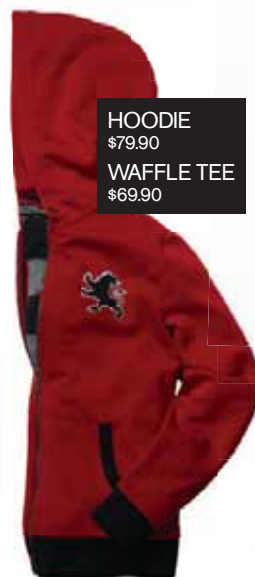
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Air Hogs Hyperactives Pro R/C Vehicle, \$59.99, available at major toy retailers, airhogs.com.



Smart Labs Weird and Wacky Contraption Lab, \$49.95, ages eight and up, available at Mastermind Toys, mastermindtoys.com.



Classic Red 12-inch Wheel Cruiser, \$139.95, available at Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.



Lazer Stunt Chaser car with built-in rechargeable battery, wireless infrared remote control, stunt ramp, battery charger and instruction guide. Ages 4 and up, \$44.99, available at major toy retailers.



Angry Birds 8-inch Red Bird Plush Toy with Sound, \$15.99, available at Future Shop, futureshop.ca.



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shop.leapfrog.com/leapfrog.



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A GROWING VOICE



ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK

MORE CANADIANS ARE CHOOSING TO HELP OTHERS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

During the Christmas holidays, there tends to be a focus on gift giving, but there is a growing movement towards charitable gift giving.

"I think it's a sort of growing voice," says Owen Charters, the executive director of canadahelps.org.

Canadahelps.org is a Canadian website that allows people to make online donations to any registered Canadian charity.

Charters says part of the reason for the charitable gift giving movement is that in an aging population, people are having a hard time finding items of need for themselves and others.

"How many more things do we really need?" is a question Charters says many baby boomers are asking themselves.

Charters says companies are also gravitating towards charitable gift giving. Rather than sending out cards and gifts, some are instead sending out holiday cards by email and making a donation to charity.

For Heather Avery, a resident of Truro, N.S., her practice of charitable gift giving during the Christmas holidays originated from her husband's family. Avery's husband grew up on a farm and the values of being appreciative of what you had and helping others in need were instilled in the children from an early age.



BRADY PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

Charitable gift giving is an idea she has bought into completely.

"When I came on the scene, it was like, 'Oh, you don't give your mom and dad a gift for Christmas,'" recalls Avery. "Now it's second nature. It's just, 'This is what we do. What charity are we choosing this year?' It's the way it should be."

Another added benefit of making a donation to charity is the tax benefits, although research shows this is only a small motivating factor for people.

With around 80,000 charities in Canada, choosing one (or a few) to donate to can be a challenge. Charters recommends checking out charities' annual reports and their websites to get a better idea of the work they are doing and the sort of impact they are having.

Also, don't hesitate to contact the organization for additional information.

"An organization that's doing great work is usually proud to talk about what they are up to," says Charters.

One important thing to determine is whether an organization is actually a charity. To verify this, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) recommends people ask a charity for its registration number and then confirm its status by accessing CRA's charities listing on its website (cra-arc.gc.ca) or by phoning CRA.

Give the gift of wishes this holiday season

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Honour the special people on your gift list and help create the magic of a wish!

Visit www.CatalogueOfWishes.ca today

CHILDREN'S WISH GRANTS WISHES IN RECORD NUMBERS

Last year, The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada granted wishes to more children with a life-threatening illness than in any other year in its history. Approximately 1,100 children and their families got a reprieve from difficult treatments, therapies and hospital stays, and shared in the positive experience, hope and courage that a wish can bring.

"2011 is shaping up to be another record year for granting wishes," commented Regan Ludlow, Acting Director of Wishes for Children's Wish. "Virtually every month this year has seen a record number of children approved to receive their most heartfelt wish."

"We are very privileged to be able to have such a positive impact on the lives of the children we serve and their families," notes Children's Wish CEO, Chris Kotsopoulos, "and we look forward to continuing our tradition of never refusing a wish to an eligible child."

The cost of granting wishes to all children approved this year is expected to exceed \$11 million, placing greater importance on expanding the Foundation's engagement with volunteers and donors over the holiday season through such diverse avenues as The Catalogue of Wishes (catalogueofwishes.ca).

The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada is the country's only all-Canadian, national wish-granting organization with chapter offices in every province. The Foundation relies entirely on the generosity of their donors and volunteers to grant children their wishes. For more information about The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, visit childrenswish.ca.



Paige was granted her wish to have her very own playhouse by Children's Wish

HOLIDAY GIVING GUIDE: A NEW LOOK AT HOLIDAY MONEY MYTHS

PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE MONEY CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS MIGHT BE SURPRISED AT HOW MUCH JOY YOU CAN BUY

A gift from World Vision Canada's 2011 holiday catalogue comes with a guarantee to change lives, including your own. Consider these twists on some old chestnuts.

FACT OR FICTION? HEALTH IS BETTER THAN WEALTH

Health is, of course, invaluable. That's what makes a gift of health-care essentials worth more than a fortune in a developing country. For just \$100,

you (or a group of co-workers or family members) can stock a medical clinic with vital supplies like antibiotics, mosquito nets and vaccines. No wonder it's one of World Vision's most popular gifts: Canadians stocked nearly 10,000 medical clinics last year alone.

FACT OR FICTION? MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES

Answer: not literally, of course. But the miraculous moringa tree might as well sprout cash. Often referred to as the "miracle tree," the moringa grows throughout Africa and Latin America; its leaves and stems are exceptionally nutritious, and they yield cleansers, medicines and fibres that families can sell. For \$125, you can buy a family a future.

FACT OR FICTION? IT TAKES MONEY TO MAKE MONEY

Absolutely true – and perhaps no truer than when a gift takes a family or even a community from dire poverty to sustainability. One of World Vision Canada's most popular gift is two hens and a rooster, which cost \$50 and

provide not only high-protein food for families but a source of income. You can also purchase goats, beekeeping kits, a fish farm... the list goes on.

FACT OR FICTION? MONEY CAN'T BUY ME LOVE

No? By sponsoring a child in a developing country for just \$35 a month, 415,000 Canadians have discovered friends, made a difference and found the joy of a gift that comes from the heart.

To shop visit worldvision.ca/gifts

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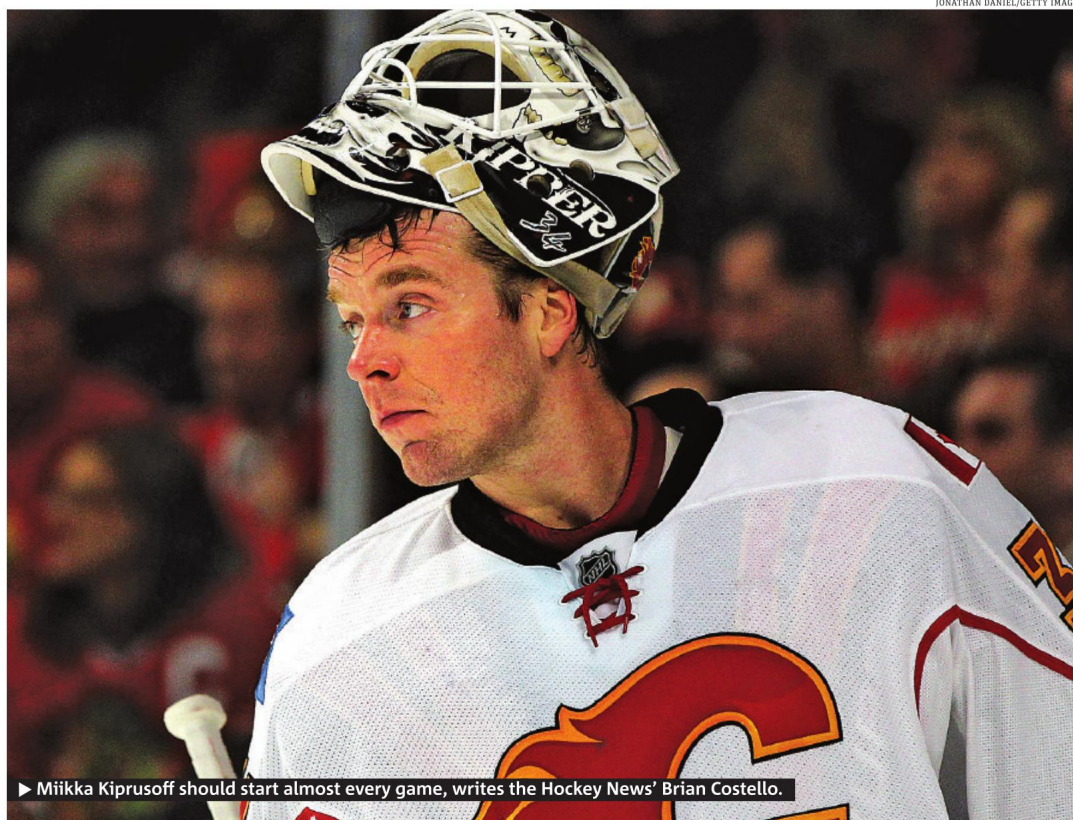


After playing Tampa Bay last night, Calgary (14-14-2) continues its trip through Florida against the Panthers (16-9-6). Florida is winless in its last three games, but has only lost twice in regulation in 13 home games this season. Jose Theodore made 32 saves in a 3-2 shootout loss to New Jersey on Tuesday after being pulled in a 6-1 loss to the Rangers two nights before. Kris Versteeg leads the Panthers with 15 goals and 33 points, including three goals and two assists as part of a four-game point streak.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Scan code for more sports.



► Miikka Kiprusoff should start almost every game, writes the Hockey News' Brian Costello.

Making a list of where I missed

THE HOCKEY NEWS

BRIAN COSTELLO
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA



It's time to repent my sins of 2011. Santa is coming in just over a week and I want him to know I'm being accountable for some things I've written in the past year or so that may not be true right now.

First, I was convinced Matt Stajan was washed up as an NHLer. I wrote he arrived here masquerading as a No. 1 centre, proved he didn't have the size, creativity or drive to play on the top two lines or the work ethic and brawn to play on the third or fourth lines. But I'm happy to admit Flames coach Brent Sutter has found a fit for him on the checking line with Tom Kostopoulos and Tim Jackman. The trio

Flames lose

Steven Stamkos scored his 19th goal of the season 30 seconds into overtime and the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Calgary Flames 5-4 on Thursday night.

- Stamkos got the winner from in close off a nifty pass from Eric Brewer.
- Teddy Purcell, Tom Pyatt, Ryan Malone and Nate Thompson also scored for the Lightning, who had lost

seven of eight.

- Calgary got goals from Matt Stajan, Jarome Iginla, Rene Bourque and Olli Jokinen. The Flames are 6-3-1 over their last 10 games.
- Calgary rebounded from a two-goal, third-period deficit when Bourque scored on a breakaway in the opening minute and Jokinen redirected Alex Tanguay's shot past Mathieu Garon during a power play with 3:12 to go in regulation. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

forechecks well and creates offensive chances on the cycle.

It was only a matter of time before Stajan ended his 35-game goalless drought. He'll never be worth the \$3.5-million cap hit he's on the books for in the next two-plus seasons and the back-to-back years of points in the mid-50s will never return, but he's better than the AHLer I had him labelled as.

Speaking of overpaid, Jay Bouwmeester will nev-

er be worth the \$6.68 million he's getting until he starts generating the offence he did with the Panthers (42 goals in three seasons). But it's not true that a Florida state commission is investigating the legitimacy of those numbers.

Eight goals in three seasons with Calgary had me convinced J-Bo doesn't have the creative mind and puck smarts to make a difference. Truth is, he is getting more adventurous

and is lately much better than average defensively. In fact, he's a horse.

While it's doubtful he'll ever do enough to warrant getting paid more than Chris Pronger, Brent Seabrook or Nicklas Lidstrom, he is playing stronger than the \$3-million stay-at-home D-men I compared him to, Marc-Edouard Vlasic and Barret Jackman.

I've also been a table pounder in recent seasons that the Flames will never post a lengthy spring run until they find a way to limit Miikka Kiprusoff to 60-odd games rather than the 70-plus they were wearing him out with.

I have since come to accept the best chance Calgary has of making the playoffs is to play Kipper in every game — other than back-to-back nights — the rest of the way. It might exhaust him come post-season, but that's a risk worth taking.

We're all good now, right Santa?

Pronger done for season

The Philadelphia Flyers say captain Chris Pronger will miss the rest of the season with "severe post-concussion syndrome."

The decision was made after the 37-year-old was examined in Pittsburgh by doctors John Maroon and Mickey Collins, who also treated Penguins star Sidney Crosby.

"Chris will continue to receive treatments and therapy with the hope that he can get better," Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said in a release Thursday.

Pronger has missed the Flyers' last 11 games since coming down with what the team first described as a virus and later changed to post-concussion symptoms.

The bruising defenceman also took a stick in the eye from Toronto's Mikhail Grabovski in late October that resulted in facial trauma and caused him to miss six games.

Pronger has one goal and 11 assists in 13 games this season.

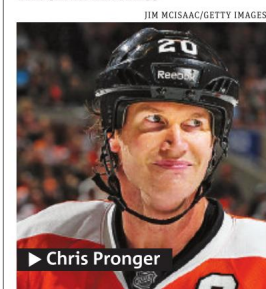
The Dryden, Ont., native, who won gold medals with Canada at the 2002 and 2010 Olympics, signed a seven-year contract with the Flyers in 2009.

He also won the Stanley Cup with the Anaheim Ducks in 2007.

He has 157 goals and 541 assists in 1,167 career regular-season games in 18 seasons with Hartford, St. Louis, Edmonton, Anaheim and Philadelphia.

Pronger joins a long list of NHL players suffering from concussions or concussion-like symptoms this season. Crosby returned to action last month for the first time since early January, but has since suffered a setback.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Chris Pronger

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	30	20	7	2	1	110	85	43	8-4-1-1	12-3-1-0	9-1-0-0	W7
d-Boston	30	20	9	0	1	102	61	41	11-6-0-1	9-3-0-0	7-2-0-1	W3
d-Florida	31	16	9	2	4	84	80	38	6-2-1-4	10-7-1-0	4-3-2-1	L3
NY Rangers	27	17	6	1	3	83	60	38	8-2-0-2	9-4-1-1	7-2-0-1	W2
Pittsburgh	31	17	10	2	2	95	79	38	8-3-2-0	9-7-0-2	5-4-1-0	L1
Toronto	30	16	11	2	1	93	95	35	7-4-2-1	9-7-0-0	5-4-1-0	W1
New Jersey	30	16	13	0	1	79	86	33	6-5-0-1	10-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W2
Buffalo	30	15	12	2	1	81	82	33	7-9-2-1	8-3-0-0	3-4-2-1	L2
Montreal	32	13	12	2	5	82	84	33	5-6-2-4	8-6-0-1	3-3-1-3	L1
Winnipeg	30	14	12	3	1	84	93	32	10-4-0-0	4-8-3-1	6-3-1-0	W1
Ottawa	32	14	14	2	2	96	112	32	7-7-0-1	7-7-2-1	4-4-1-1	L1
Washington	29	15	13	0	1	89	94	31	10-5-0-1	5-8-0-0	4-6-0-0	L1
Tampa Bay	31	13	16	0	2	84	105	28	8-5-0-0	5-11-0-2	3-7-0-0	W1
Carolina	33	10	18	3	2	84	113	25	6-9-0-2	4-9-3-0	2-7-1-0	W1
NY Islanders	29	9	14	4	2	67	96	24	6-8-3-0	3-6-1-2	4-4-2-1	L4

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Minnesota	32	20	8	2	2	83	70	44	10-4-1-1	10-4-1-1	7-2-0-1	L2
d-Chicago	31	19	8	1	3	103	95	42	9-2-0-3	10-6-1-0	7-2-0-1	W3
d-Dallas	30	18	11	0	1	77	80	37	9-4-0-1	9-7-0-0	6-3-0-1	W3
Detroit	30	19	10	1	0	96	67	39	12-2-1-0	7-8-0-0	7-3-0-0	L1
Vancouver	31	18	11	0	2	101	77	38	10-4-0-1	10-7-0-1	7-2-0-1	L2
St. Louis	29	17	9	0	3	71	62	37	11-3-0-1	6-6-0-2	7-2-0-1	W3
Nashville	31	16	11	3	1	83	83	36	7-5-2-1	9-6-1-0	6-4-0-0	W4
San Jose	28	15	10	2	1	78	68	33	8-6-1-0	7-4-1-1	3-5-1-1	L3
Phoenix	30	15	12	1	2	78	80	33	6-6-1-1	9-6-0-1	4-6-0-0	L3
Los Angeles	31	14	13	2	2	67	71	32	8-9-0-1	6-4-2-1	3-6-1-0	W1
Edmonton	30	14	13	0	3	83	80	31	9-5-0-2	5-8-0-1	4-5-0-1	L1
Calgary	31	14	14	2	1	78	87	31	8-5-1-1	6-9-1-0	6-2-1-1	L2
Colorado	31	14	16	1	0	82	94	29	8-9-0-0	6-7-1-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Anaheim	30	9	16	2	3	71	96	23	7-9-1-0	2-7-1-3	3-6-1-0	W1
Columbus	31	9	18	1	3	74	102	22	6-9-1-1	3-9-0-2	4-5-1-0	L1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results

Carolina 4 Vancouver 3
Tampa Bay 5 Calgary 4 (OT)
Nashville 4 Detroit 3
Dallas 3 N.Y. Islanders 2
Los Angeles 2 Columbus 1
Philadelphia 4 Montreal 3
N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis
Washington at Winnipeg
Colorado at San Jose
Wednesday's results
Boston 5 Ottawa 2
Anaheim 4 Phoenix 1
Chicago 4 Minnesota 3 (SO)

Tonight's games

All times Eastern
Dallas at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

Tomorrow's games

Boston at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Vancouver at Toronto, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Nashville, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Columbus, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Detroit, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Washington at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Edmonton at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Sunday's games
Carolina at Florida, 5 p.m.
Calgary at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Columbus at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

HURRICANES 4, CANUCKS 3

First Period

1. Vancouver, Bieksa 3 (Higgins, Kesler) 5:19
Penalties — Malhotra Vcr, Ballard Vcr, Ruutu Car (roughing), Rome Vcr, Allen Car (fighting) 7:33, Raymond Vcr (interference) 10:27, Lapierre Vcr (goaltender interference) 15:10.

Second Period

2. Vancouver, Raymond 2 (H.Sedin, Burrows) 9:51
3. Carolina, Bowman 1 (Stewart, McBain) 15:52
4. Carolina, Ruutu 10 (Allen, Jokinen) 19:08
Penalties — Burrows Vcr (slashing) 3:28, Brent Car (holding) 5:11.

Third Period

5. Carolina, Bowman 2 (LaRose, Bra.Sutter) 0:37
6. Carolina, Spacek 1 (Ruutu, Brent) 6:12 (pp)
7. Vancouver, Burrows 10 (H.Sedin, Raymond) 8:40

Penalties — Ballard Vcr (holding) 5:12, Burrows Vcr (slashing) 6:12, Burrows Vcr, LaRose Car (roughing) 12:20.

Shots on goal

Vancouver 9 13 14 —36
Carolina 15 9 17 —41

Goal — Vancouver: C.Schneider (L,7-5-0); Carolina: Ward (W,10-13-4).

Power plays (goals-chances) — Vancouver: 0-1; Carolina: 1-6.

Referees — Dave Jackson, Rob Martell. **Linesmen** — Brad Kovachik, Mike Vik.

Attendance — 15,292 (18,680) at Raleigh, N.C.

LIGHTNING 5, FLAMES 4 (OT)

First Period

1. Tampa Bay, Purcell 6 (Downie, Moore) 5:11 (pp)
2. Calgary, Stajan 1 (Jackman, Kostopoulos) 19:27
Penalties — Jokinen Cal (hooking) 3:30, Bouwmeester Cal (hooking), Purcell TB (goaltender interference) 13:17, Gilroy TB (cross-checking) 16:46, Moore TB (hooking) 19:55.

Second Period

3. Calgary, Iginla 12 (Jokinen, Bouwmeester) 1:57
4. Tampa Bay, Pyatt 3 (Shannon, Jones) 10:10
5. Tampa Bay, Malone 7 (Stamkos, Hedman) 12:05
6. Tampa Bay, Thompson 3 (Tyrell, Hedman) 19:26
Penalties — None.

Third Period

7. Calgary, Bourque 10 (D.Smith) 0:58
8. Calgary, Jokinen 9 (Tanguay, D.Smith) 16:48 (pp)
Penalty — Hedman TB (slashing) 15:06.

Overtime

9. Tampa Bay, Stamkos 19 (Brewer, Downie) 0:30
Penalties — None.

Shots on goal

Calgary 9 5 13 0 —27
Tampa Bay 10 18 5 1 —34
Goal — Calgary: Kiprusoff (L,14-10-2); Tampa Bay: Garon (W,7-8-1). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Calgary: 1-3; Tampa Bay: 1-1.

Attendance — 17,241 (19,204) at Tampa, Fla.

FLYERS 4, CANADIENS 3

First Period

1. Philadelphia, Talbot 9 (Voracek, Timonen) 12:07
Penalties — Marshall Pha (slashing) 3:08, Nokelainen Mtl (holding) 9:08, Kaberle Mtl (interference) 12:39, Bourdon Pha (slashing) 17:01, Voracek Pha (tripping) 17:21, Coburn Pha (cross-checking) 18:50.

Second Period

2. Montreal, Desharnais 5 (Pacioretty, Kaberle) 5:02
3. Philadelphia, Zolnierczyk 2 (Carle) 5:48
4. Montreal, Leblanc 1 (Blunden, Subban) 13:24
5. Philadelphia, Simmonds 9 (Carle) 18:10
6. Montreal, Cole 12 (Pacioretty, Desharnais) 19:44 (pp)

Penalties — Leblanc Mtl (holding stick) 2:32, Couturier Pha (hooking) 7:21, Cammalleri Mtl (tripping) 16:06, Couturier Pha (slashing) 19:19, Carle Pha (delay of game) 19:55, Desharnais Mtl (tripping) 20:00.

Third Period

7. Philadelphia, Meszaros 3 (Jagr, Carle) 8:08
Penalties — Couturier Pha (slashing) 3:46, Plekanec Mtl (high-sticking) 14:50, Talbot Pha (holding) 17:29.

Shots on goal

Philadelphia 9 10 6 —25
Montreal 12 8 11 —31

Goal — Philadelphia: Bobrovsky (W,5-2-1); Montreal: Price (L,12-8-7).

Power plays (goals-chances) — Phila.: 0-6; Montreal: 1-9.

Attendance — 21,273 (21,273) at Montreal.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Giroux, Pha	16	23	39
Kessel, Tor	18	18	36
Toews, Chi	18	16	34
Lupul, Tor	13	21	34
D.Sedin, Vcr	12	22	34
Stamkos, TB	18	15	33
Versteeg, Fla	15	18	33
H.Sedin, Vcr	8	25	33
Sharp, Chi	16	16	32
Ma.Hossa, Chi	13	19	32
Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	13	19	32
Pominville, Buf	10	22	32

Last night's games not included

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	396	274
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	327	270
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	288	341
Miami	4	9	0	.308	256	246

SOUTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	10	3	0	.769	330	208
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	266	251
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	193	252
Indianapolis	0	13	0	.000	184	382

NORTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	320	202
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	285	270
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	178	254

WEST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	5	0	.615	269	302
Oakland	7	6	0	.538	290	354
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	324	299
Kansas City	5	8	0	.385	173	305

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	324	349
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	297	292
Washington	4	9	0	.308	229	290

SOUTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	415	286
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	300	267
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	313	355
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	232	370

NORTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	0	0	1.000	466	278
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	367	305
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	301	255
Minnesota	2	11	0	.154	274	364

WEST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	3	0	.769	307	182
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	246	259
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	253	288
St. Louis	2	11	0	.154	153	326

WEEK 15

Last night's result

Jacksonville at Atlanta

Tomorrow's game

All times Eastern

Dallas at Tampa Bay, 8:20 p.m.

Sunday's games

New Orleans at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Houston, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
New England at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia, 4:15 p.m.
Baltimore at San Diego, 8:20 p.m.

Monday's game

Pittsburgh at San Francisco, 8:30 p.m.

GOLF

THAILAND CHAMPIONSHIP

At Bangkok

Par 72

First Round

Lee Westwood, England 29-31—60
John Daly, United States 34-31—65
Gregory Bourdy, France 34-34—68
Thaworn Wiratchant, Thailand 36-33—69
Charl Schwartzel, South Africa 34-35—69
Michael Thompson, United States 36-33—69
Chris Rodgers, England 35-34—69
Antonio Lascuna, Philippines 35-34—69
Kwanchai Tannin, Thailand 34-35—69
Adam Groom, Australia 36-33—69
Scott Hend, Australia 34-35—69
Kodai Ichihara, Japan 35-34—69
Simon Dyson, England 36-33—69
Lu Chien-soon, Taiwan 33-37—70
Thongchai Jaidee, Thailand 35-35—70
Tommy Fleetwood, England 36-34—70
Panuwat Muenlek, Thailand 34-36—70
Ryo Ishikawa, Japan 32-38—70
Gaganjeet Bhullar, India 35-35—70
Tim Stewart, Australia 37-33—70
Lam Zhiqun, Singapore 36-34—70
Lee Sung, South Korea 36-34—70
Baek Seuk-hyun, South Korea 36-34—70
Miles Tunnick, England 36-34—70
Wang Ter-chang, Taiwan

DUBAI LADIES MASTERS

At Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Par 72

Second Round

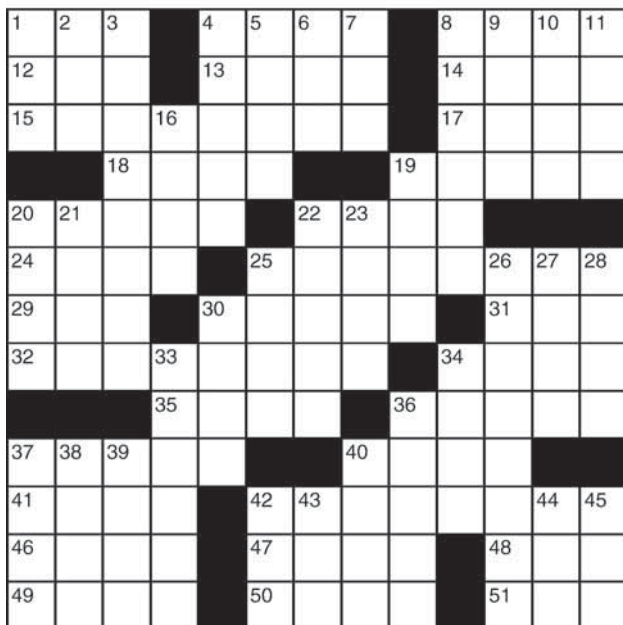
Alexis Thompson, United States 70-66—136
Margherita Rigon, Italy 70-68—138
Sophie Gustafson, Sweden 71-67—138
Julieta Granada, Paraguay 68-71—139
Becky Morgan, Wales 70-69—139
Louise Larsson, Sweden 71-69—140
Michelle Wie, United States 72-68—140
Pernilla Lindberg, Sweden 66-74—140
Lotta Wahlen, Sweden 70-71—141
Elisabeth Esterl, Germany 68-73—141
Linda Wessberg, Sweden 68-73—141
Stacy Lee Bregman, South Africa 68-73—141
Minea Blomqvist, Finland 68-73—141
Beth Allen, United States 69-72—141
Lee-Anne Pace, South Africa 69-72—141
Christel Boeljon, Netherlands 71-71—142
Sara Brown, United States 69-73—142
Diana Luna, Italy

Crossword

Across

1 Humongous
4 Unfriendly
8 Took to the skies
12 Commotion
13 Eye layer
14 Emanation
15 1849 California event
17 Commotion
18 Campus digs
19 Trusty mount
20 "Yippeel!"
22 Create
24 Equal
25 Shirk work
29 Mess up
30 Analogy mark
31 Have debts
32 Paris airport eponym
34 Winter transport
35 Guitars' smaller kin
36 Director Almodóvar
37 Put into words
40 Complaint
41 Stead
42 Source of wealth
46 Teensy bit
47 Vicinity
48 Junior
49 Former European capital
50 Sailing vessel
51 Day divs.

Down
1 Satchel
2 Bachelor's final utterance
3 Cohort of Behar and Hasselbeck
4 Pungent dish in In-



dian cuisine
5 Egg
6 "— Miserables"
7 Doo follower
8 Zip up, maybe
9 Troubadour's instrument
10 Great Lake
11 Actress Sela
16 Entryway
19 Epidermis
20 Newspaper page
21 Present
22 Shopping centers
23 Lotion additive
25 Beauty spot

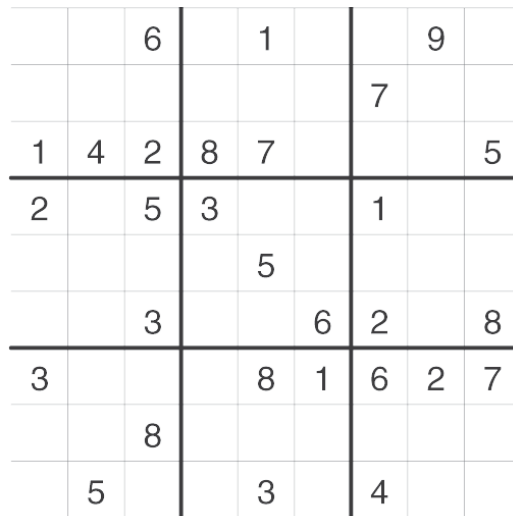
26 Pepperidge Farms favorites
27 Basin accessory
28 Start over
30 Potential pickle, for short
33 Fall
34 Appear
36 Go by bicycle
37 Thick slice
38 One of The Jackson 5
39 A billion years (Var.)
40 Huffed and puffed
42 Festive

43 Man-mouse link
44 Neither mate
45 Type measures

Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	2	5	9	6	4	7	8	1
8	1	9	2	7	3	4	6	5
4	7	6	8	5	1	9	2	3
7	9	3	6	1	8	5	4	2
2	8	4	3	9	5	1	7	6
6	5	1	4	2	7	8	3	9
1	6	2	7	8	9	3	5	4
5	4	7	1	3	6	2	9	8
9	3	8	5	4	2	6	1	7

A look at the weather

TODAY
Min -12°
Max 2°

SATURDAY
Min -2°
Max 5°

SUNDAY
Min -6°
Max -1°

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist

"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta." WEEKDAYS 5:30AM



Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 It's a good day for working your way through a pile of work, but it is not a good day for taking risks.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Someone will come to you for advice today. Make sure he or she knows you can only help so much.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Someone you trust will let you down today but it could turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 A great weight is about to be lifted from your shoulders and once it has, you'll feel lighter than air.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 Career issues and money matters could be a bit tense over the next 24 hours.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 All experience is good experience and a bad experience will teach you some important life lessons.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you throw yourself at the first challenge that comes along today, you'll be short of energy for a bigger challenge that is coming up.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You have talent to reach the top, but whether you have motivation will become clear in the next few days.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 The Sun remains in your sign until the 22nd. Between now and then, you must go all out to better yourself in every possible way.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If you believe you have been hard done by, suffer in silence, for now.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Loved ones and work colleagues will make demands today. Don't do so much that you exhaust yourself.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Like it or not, today you'll have to deal with someone for whom you have a distaste. **SALLY BROMPTON**



For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Caption contest



CHRIS O'NEAR/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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1. Removed bush on the left side of image. 2. Removed tunnel behind the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 3. Removed brick from bridge above the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 4. Added tree above the bridge. 5. Removed stripe in the road. 6. Added a rock below the bridge. 7. Added an indent to the top of the bridge. 8. Removed a brick in the bridge to the right of the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 9. Added grass to the right of the road. 10. Turned on the fog lights on the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox.



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Unit 101, 77 Castleridge Blvd NE

Authorized Dealers

Great Tel Mobility:
Unit 101, 4908 17 Ave SE
Dollar Store:
Unit 5, 12 Castleridge Dr NE
Rocky Mountain Computer Repair:
Unit 307, 3200 Glenmore Tr SE
Mobile Zone:
Unit 101, 2640 52nd St NE
Express Computer Store:
Unit 210, 9737 MacLeod Tr SW
Ascot Business Systems:
Unit 104A, 3716-61 Ave SE

Rojin Bakery & Food Market Inc:
Unit 8, 4105 4th St NW
Sol Optix: 628 B 17th Ave SW
M&C Food Mart: 1412 9th Ave SE
Stanley Park Grocery:
4649 MacLeod Tr SW
Centex Petroleum:
Unit 808, 19th St SE
Hing Wah Imports:
312 Centre St SE
IC Computers:
Unit 122, 3715 51st St SW